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REPORT ON HEMP MARKETING IN INDIA

By

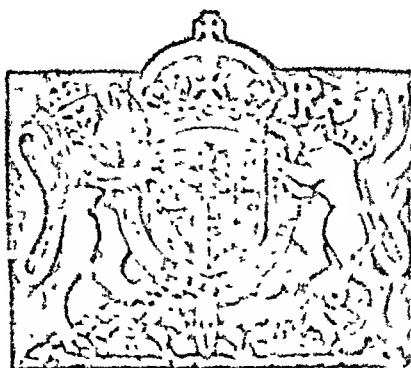
T. S. SABNIS, B.A. (Hon.), M.Sc., I.A.S.

CALCUTTA: GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CENTRAL PUBLICATION BRANCH
1931

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PREFATORY NOTE.

The Imperial Council of Agricultural Research which financed the enquiry into Hemp Marketing in India and has arranged for the publication of this report is not responsible for the statements contained or the opinions ~~expressed~~ expressed in it.



PART I
ANNUAL
REPORT
ON
HEMP MARKETING IN INDIA

By
T. S. SABNIS, *B.A. (Hon.), M.Sc., I.A.S.*

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REPORT ON HEMP MARKETING IN INDIA

CHAPTER I.

INTRODUCTORY.

1. *The Trade Term "Hemp".*:- The trade uses the term "hemp" for the fibre of at least four crops grown in India viz., *Cannabibus sativa* L., *Agave* species, *Hibiscus cannabinus* L., and *Crotalaria juncea* L. But *Sann* hemp with which the author of this report is concerned, is got from *Crotalaria juncea* and is comparatively the most important fibre plant in India, both as regards the extent to which it is grown for local consumption and also for export.

2. *History of Sann Hemp.* *Sann hemp* (*Crotalaria juncea* L.) is "probably¹ one of the earliest (500 B.C.) of the distinctly named fibres in India, as we find in the Hindu Institutes of Mann that the sacrificial thread of the Kashatriyas or the Rajputs is directed to be made of Sann". Rheede² was the first European writer who in 1685 brought the plant to the notice of European botanists. As³ early as 1803 it was brought to the notice of the East India Company and it excited the interest of the Board of Directors, who made a strong effort to get it taken up by the trade in Britain, but made no headway with it. In 1803 Roxburgh⁴ conducted a series of experiments and observed "the quality of the fibre.....is naturally excellent, probably not inferior

3. *Vici-situdes in the sann hemp trade*.— Before the war, Europe depended almost entirely on supplies of the cheaper Russian hemp mostly of the inferior grade known as Seretz with which Indian hemp competes. Russia's average production then was over 60 per cent. of the world's total production and her pre-war average export was 58,844 tons, against 8,652 tons in 1926, and 7,663 tons in 1927. The war thus interfered with the Russian supply which declined by nearly 50 per cent. and Indian hemp was in great demand.

During the first three years of the war Indian export of hemp steadily increased and in 1916-17 it was a little over that of the pre-war year (*vide* appendices 4 and 5). In 1917-18 it declined to less than half due to shortage of shipping. Owing to uncertain supplies from Russia just after the war, there was a temporary demand for Indian hemp, and the export from India in 1919-20 was more than double the average of the pre-war period (*vide* appendices 4 and 5). The years 1919-20 and 1920-21 were marked by speculative transactions, fancy prices being offered for Indian hemp. This boom period was followed by a heavy drop in the export of hemp from India and in 1921-22 the hemp export declined to one-third of that of 1919-20 and was almost half that of 1909-10.

In 1924-25, owing to the failure of the Italian crop, decline in Russian supplies and consequent increased demand for Indian hemp, the export trade appreciated considerably and reached the highest figure recorded since 1919-20. Belgium has been the largest buyer since 1922.

Owing to fancy prices offered in that year for the produce, crops in the Central Provinces, United Provinces and Panchmahals in the Bombay Presidency were harvested too early and the fibre was reported to be weak as it was extracted from immature stems.

Meantime Russia, having recovered from the effects of the war and organized her agriculture, commenced her activities in the hemp trade as in previous years, and from 1925 the demand for Indian sann hemp and consequently the Indian hemp trade gradually declined owing to renewed competition from Russia. By 1929-30 the hemp export from India had declined both in quantity and value 23 and 19 per cent. respectively below the pre-war average. Authorities expect that the Indian hemp trade will be seriously affected in future by renewed competition from Russia and by the increased use of hard hems in Europe, unless the Indian fibre and its marketing system is improved at a very early date.

With an uncertain demand on one hand and a supply of doubtful quality on the other, the larger shippers do not find the export of Indian sann hemp profitable at present and therefore some have reduced their export business, and some have discontinued it altogether. This state of affairs led the trade to press for improvement in the fibre marketed, and the agitation resulted in some improvement in its preparation. The matter was also taken up by the Imperial Institute's Advisory Committee on Plant and Animal Products and on Vegetable

Fibres; also by the London Hemp Baling Association, the object in all cases being to effect improvements which would enable Indian hemp to hold its own against renewed competition from the cheaper Russian supplies.

On this subject Sir David Prain, Chairman of the Advisory Council of Plant and Animal Products at the Imperial Institute, London, said before the Royal Commission on Agriculture in India in a meeting in London in 1927—"Now,* for the first time, is coming an opportunity when it (*Sann*) can come in if India is anxious and willing to take an interest in the thing herself. It may now perhaps establish a sound position as against Russian hemp, which it never had before, and may never have again. If it is once established in the market, it will be difficult to dislodge in the future." He also referred to the possibility of Africa producing hemp.

The object of the creation of the temporary post of Hemp Marketing Officer under the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research to which the author was appointed, is therefore an attempt to discover whether India can improve the quality of the fibre exported, sufficiently to capture the market, and if so, how. In this connection particular attention has been paid by the author to the factors named by the Imperial Institute's Advisory Committee on Vegetable Fibres as limiting the consumption of Indian hemp, *viz.* :—

- (a) the great irregularity of quality;
- (b) excess of dust and dirt in the fibre; and
- (c) the unreliability of the packing.

4. *Appointment of the Hemp Marketing Officer.*—The author of this report Mr. T. S. Sabnis, I.A.S., was appointed Hemp Marketing Officer by the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research to enquire into and report on the condition of the *Sann* hemp trade, with special reference to possible improvements in the quality of hemp exported. He took charge of his duty on 1st September 1930 and relinquished the post on 17th April 1931.

5. *Procedure adopted.*—After studying the available literature and making out a plan of work, the author visited the most important hemp growing tracts in India including those in the United Provinces, Central Provinces, Bihar and Orissa, Bengal and the Benares and Muzaffarpur Provinces. The Punjab, Assam and Burma being comparatively unimportant as regards hemp production, had to be excluded from the programme.

of India, were examined and the subject matter of the enquiry was discussed with Directors of Agriculture and agricultural officers immediately concerned with the crop, with Registrars of Co-operative Societies, Directors of Land Records, the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, Chambers of Commerce, Trade Associations, the principal balers and exporters. Touring took up most of the time available for the enquiry.

An enquiry of this type necessarily suffered from some handicaps peculiar to it. Unlike formal committees which get their facts and figures from responsible persons and organizations in the form of memoranda and oral examinations, the author of this enquiry had to be content with the results of his own efforts to get the relevant information from the persons concerned. Hence, the report does not claim to be an exhaustive treatise on the subject, but it is hoped that the tentative findings and proposals embodied in it will be helpful in evolving constructive schemes.

6. *Acknowledgment.*—The author takes this opportunity to acknowledge gratefully the assistance rendered by all whom it was his privilege to meet in the course of his duty.

I am indebted to Mr. F. J. Plymen, C.I.E., for the use of two photographs Nos. 23 and 24.

CHAPTER II.

UNITED PROVINCES.

7. *Acreage, species grown and general methods of cultivation.*—The average net annual area under all crops in the province for the last five years was 42,323,553 acres, of which an average of 203,625 acres were under *Sann* hemp, therefore *Sann* hemp was 0.48 per cent. of the total cropped area. According to the figures given in the Season and Crop Report for the year 1928-29 the area under hemp (mostly *Sann* hemp) excluding the Indian States was 156,690 acres.

The crop is grown throughout the province, but the principal tracts where it is grown for fibre, lie in the eastern and north-eastern districts, notably Benares (20,759 acres), Jaunpore (18,440), Azamgarh (13,625), Allahabad (11,959), Partabgarh (11,822), Pilibhit (5,118) and Bilari tehsil of the Moradabad district (1,485).

The (*Sann*) crop grown in the different tracts of the province all belong to *Crotalaria juncea* L. Variations in the vegetative characters which are sometimes evident amount only to varietal differences.

Throughout the province preparation of the land consists in two to three ploughings. In the beginning of July after the first rain, seed is sown broadcast after the final ploughing and the field is run over with the Pata.* The seed rate varies at different places, but generally

* A beam which is dragged over the surface of the land to level down the furrow tops.

speaking 60 lbs. of good seed suffice for an acre. Germination usually takes place within three days after sowing. No after-care is given, or required, until the crop is ready for harvest.

8. *Botanical work*.— Since about 1923, the Economic Botanist to the Government, United Provinces, has been working on the improvement of this crop and his work has been mainly confined to "selection" of improved strains. As a result, an improved strain named *Cawnpore 12*, which gives a better quality and also a higher yield of fibre (up to 10 maunds per acre), was evolved and its seed was distributed in the *Sann* hemp growing tracts in 1926. Samples of its fibre were sent to the Imperial Institute, London, and the report received contained the following statement :—

"The colour and preparation of the fibre is vastly superior to the fibre which is imported into this market as *Sann*. It would sell several pounds (sterling) per ton above the price of the material now imported from India."

If after trial in the *Sann* growing tracts this strain is found to be really superior to the local strains, it should be spread as quickly as possible before it is contaminated by crossing with other strains. In connection with this work it was noticed that the *Sann* crop of the province was attacked by the stem-borer, *Laspygnesia pseudonutis*, and that this pest caused losses of 30-50 per cent. of the crop in the cases observed.

9. *Trade classification of the United Provinces Sann fibre*.— The trade classifies the *Sann* fibre of the United Provinces into (a) Pilibhit quality—a greenish fibre, and (b) Benares quality—a whitish fibre.

(a) PILIBHIT (OR GREEN HEMP).

10. *Areas and Cultivation*.—This quality is grown mostly in the Pilibhit, Bisalpur and Puraupur tehsils of Pilibhit district, but also to a considerable extent in the Bilari tahsil of Moradabad district. Small quantities are also grown in Biranpur-Katra (Shahjahanpur district) and in Orai (Jalann district).

In the Pilibhit district the crop is grown mostly for fibre, a few plots being left for seed production. The cultivator keeps his own seed and uniformity of crop is thus maintained. In Bilari, it is grown either for green manuring, or for both seed and fibre.

The early crop known locally as *jethwa* is sown before the monsoon (about May) on a very limited scale on canal irrigated lands, and is used mostly for green manuring. The monsoon crop known locally as *katakia* is the main crop grown for fibre, or for both seed and fibre. It is the green fibre of this monsoon crop that is known to the trade as the Pilibhit hemp. Private landlords usually grow the *katakia* on their farms for green manuring, while tenants usually grow it for both seed and fibre as in Bilari, or only for fibre as in Pilibhit district.

11. *Harvesting, retting and extraction (photos Nos. 1 and 2).*—The crop in Bilari tahsil of Moradabad district is harvested after seed formation from the middle of November, while in Pilibhit district it is harvested for fibre from the middle of September to the end of October when it is in full bloom and pods are being formed. In the Pilibhit district it is left on the field after cutting for two to four days to dry a little; the tops of the plants are then cut off and largely fed to cattle while the topped plants are made into bundles which are stacked vertically near the retting pool to dry further.

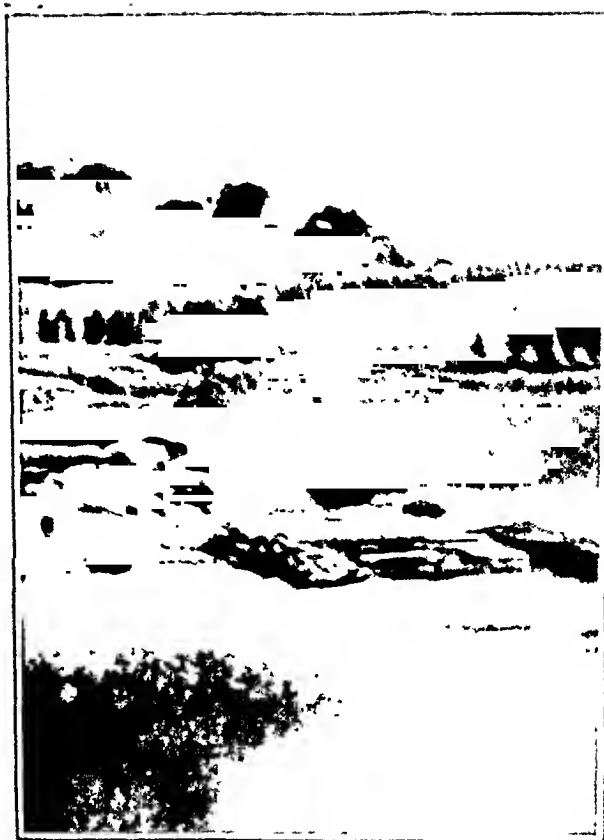
Retting is done according to the convenience of the cultivator. It starts in Pilibhit district from 15th September, and in Bilari tahsil from 15th November; continuing till the end of December in both cases. The period required for retting varies according to the temperature of the water in which the plants are retted. It is three to five days in September and October, five to eight days in November, and nine to fifteen days in December. The bundles of plants are immersed flat in stagnant pools and are weighed down with mud.

Before the material is fully retted—a condition ascertained by test with the fingers to discover whether the fibre is loose—it is removed from the water and stacked vertically to dry. The fibre is then extracted (photo 3) from the dried material by breaking the stalks at several places and pulling it away from the wood. Extraction is done by women (generally of the *Chamar* community). The average labourer extracts about two lbs. of fibre per day, and is said to get either 1/25 of the fibre which he extracts or the dry sticks as wages.

The fibre, without undergoing washing or cleaning, is folded and twisted into small bundles known locally as *gunchas*. Under-retting and absence of washing account for the large amount of dirt and dust generally found in it. Water pools for retting are scarce in Pilibhit district and Bilari tahsil of Moradabad district, and in such localities a hand machine for extracting the fibre from the green stalks would be very useful.

The yield of fibre is five to six maunds per acre, and the yield of seed is about the same when the crop is normal.

12. *Characters of the Pilibhit fibre.*—The fibre is dirty green in colour, three to five feet long, matted in the form of ribbons (*i.e.*, the vegetable matter connecting the bast fibres has not been fully decomposed during the retting process), weak as compared with the fibre from the Central Provinces and the Ratnagiri district of the Bombay Presidency; coarse, saturated with mud, but without much stick. The fibre is not tangled (*i.e.*, intertwined in a tangled mass) and except for its coarseness can be prepared into a good quality fibre after it is hackled. The fibre from Pilibhit district is superior to that from the Bilari tahsil of Moradabad district; and, as already stated, both are greenish in colour in spite of the fact that the former is harvested about the time when its pods are being formed, as is the case in Azamgarh, Partabgarh and other districts which grow Benares quality hemp in which the



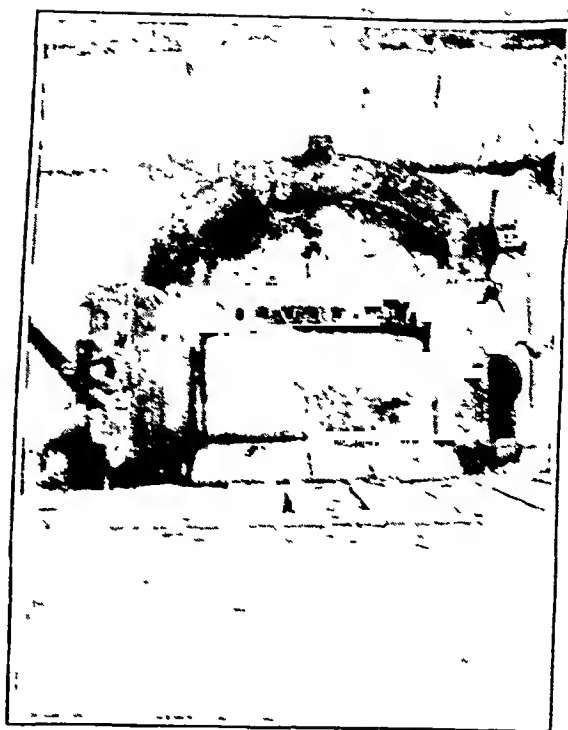
2. Retting



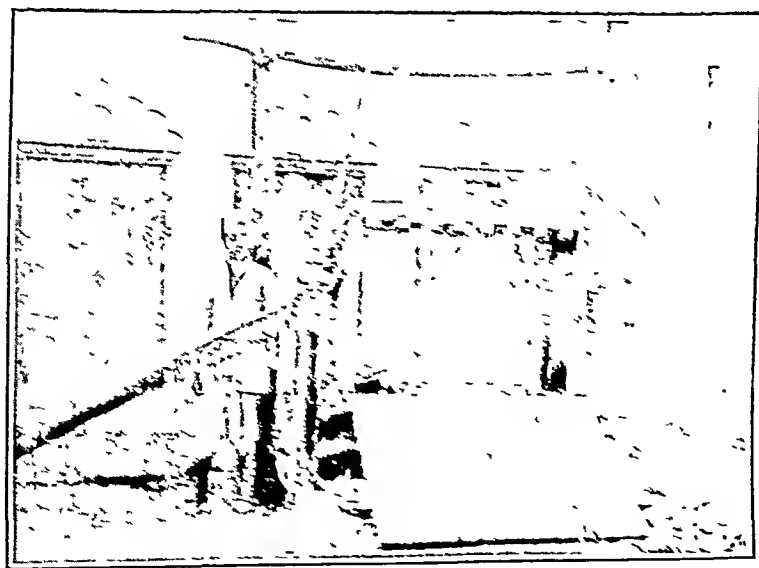
1. Material being immersed.



5. Hand press at Pilibhit.



6. West Patent press for Kutcha and pucca bales at Chandusi.



7. Hand press at Chandusi.

colour is whitish. It is difficult to account for this greenish colouration in Pilibhit hemp. Early maturity of the plant may be a contributing factor but this is doubtful. Experimental work is needed to establish the cause.

13. *Markets, arrivals and bundling in the year 1928-29.*

Name of market.		Arrivals, Maunds.*
Chandausi	. . . . .	50,000
Pilibhit	. . . . .	45,000

Both markets have hand presses (photo. 4, 5, 6 and 7) for pressing the produce into *kutchas* bales.

Here it should be noted that the *gunchas* (i.e., small bundles of fibre folded and twisted) are not opened and cleaned before they are pressed into *kutchas* bales.

BENARES HEMP.

14. *Areas, cultivation and harvesting.*—Amongst the districts which produce the white quality known in the trade as "Benares hemp" the most important are Partalgarh, Allahabad, Benares, Jampur and Azamgarh; and small quantities of fibre are also got from Fatehpur, Cawnpore, Unao and Hamirpur districts.

The crop is mostly grown for fibre. Seed is sown with the rains and cut when the crop is in full bloom, before pods begin to form. Small plots are left for seed production and are usually grown mixed with millets, pulses, til, etc.

15. *Retting and washing.*—The harvested crop is made into bundles which immediately, after the tops are cut for fodder, are immersed flat in stagnant pools of water, and weighed down with mud. The plants are not dried before retting. Retting starts from the middle of September and continues till the end of October. The material is allowed to rot three to six days and it is usually over-retted. Over-retting in that short time may be due to the immaturity of the plant, or to the practice of not drying the harvested material before retting.

The retted bundles are washed by beating first one end, and then the other of each of them on the surface of the retting pool. The process is completed by placing the butt ends in the water and vigorously lifting the bundles up and down and twisting them side-ways in the water. By the vertical and twisting motion the fibre from nearly half the length of the stem is loosened and forms into a tangled mass.

16. *Extraction.*—After the washing operation, the bundles are either stacked vertically, or (as in Allahabad district) opened out and spread on the field to allow the water to drain off. The sticks are then pulled

* 1 maund= 82½ lbs.

† Kutchas bales=not full pressed bales.

out, and the fibre mass is straightened a bit, and allowed to dry on the field. The dried fibre is then folded and twisted into small bundles known locally as "bidi".

In Allahabad district, however, extraction is done by taking small bundles of the dried retted stems at a time, and breaking these in the middle. The sticks towards the butt ends are removed, but the sticks towards the upper half remain intact and covered by the fibre. The bundle is then divided longitudinally into two parts and re-made after turning one-half round so that the halves lie with sticks portion at either end. The loose fibre of the butt end of each half is then used to hide the sticks left in the upper portion of the opposite half of the bundle when twisting it into the form of the "bidi"; fifty per cent. of the sticks are thus left in the Allahabad fibre and it is regrettable that this practice is also spreading in Partabgarh district.

Extraction is usually done by the cultivator's family but when the crop is grown by landlords, they engage paid labour. In Jaunpur district the labourer's wage is $\frac{1}{4}$ seer of *gur** and grain for the midday meal, and either about $1\frac{1}{2}$ seers of inferior grain to take home in the evening, or the dry sticks instead. In Allahabad district the wage is $1\frac{1}{2}$ seers of some inferior grain.

17. *Characters of the fibre.*—The fibre is not matted but is badly tangled; three to five feet in length, white, fairly soft, weak (as compared with the Bengal quality or the green quality from the Central Provinces) and containing varying amounts of dust and bits of stick.

The weakness of the fibre may be due either to over-retting and violent washing, or to the immaturity of the fibre caused by the forcing effect of the climate on the growth of the plant. The tangled character of the fibre is caused by the retted bundles being vigorously moved vertically in the pool during washing and the white colour, as in the case of white fibres from other provinces, is probably due to the crop being harvested before the seed has matured; also the vigorous washing is probably a factor. It is difficult to say without an experiment whether the omission of drying before retting has anything to do with the white colouration.

The produce of Fatehpur, Cawnpore, Hamirpur and Unao districts is considered the best quality, though quantitatively the crop in these districts is unimportant. As regards "loading" in the form of sticks, i.e., leaving pieces of sticks in the fibre, fibre from the following places stand in the order given below :—

- | | |
|------------------------|---|
| (1) Least loading . | Fibre from Bindki in the Fatehpur district. |
| (2) Moderate loading . | Fibre from Azamgarh district. |
| (3) Heaviest loading . | Fibre from Sheogarh and Siwait in Allahabad district. |

As regards quality of fibre, however, they stand as follows :—

Fibre from Bindki—first,
Fibre from Azamgarh—second,

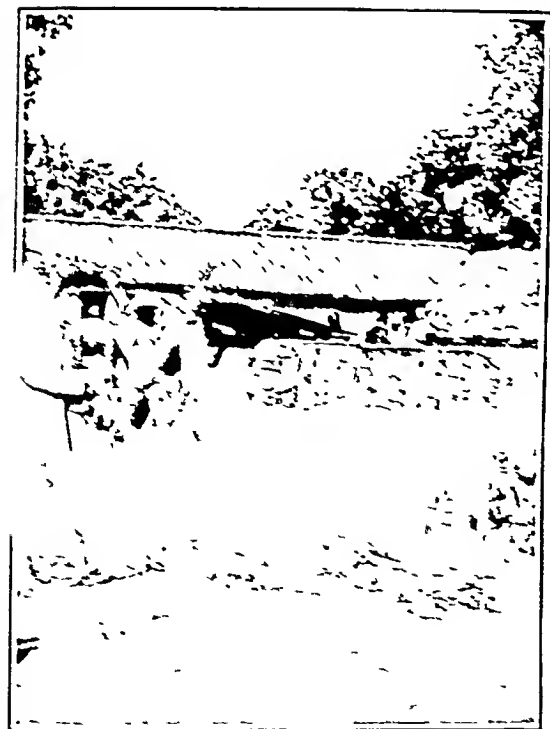
* Gur=crude sugar.



11. Fibre being pressed into kutchra bales at the Seoguh market.



12. Kutchra bales at the Vishwanathgunj market.



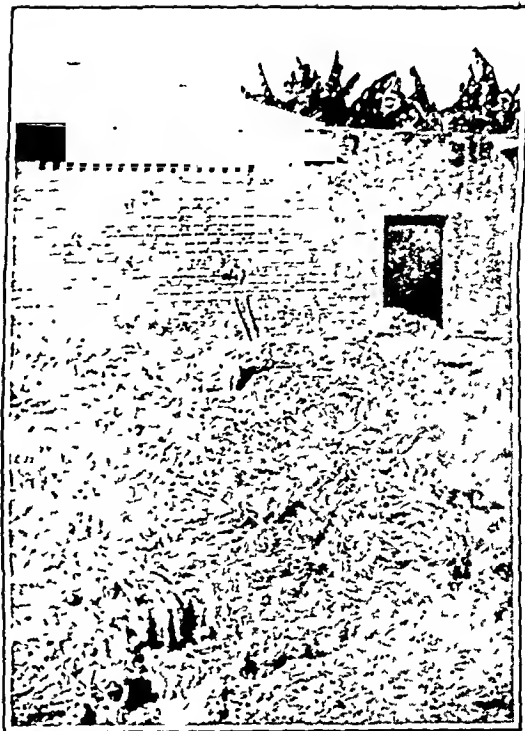
13. Wooden hand press at the Vishwanathgunj market.



14. Wooden hand press at the Vishwanathgunj market.



8. Fibre being brought to the Vishwanathgunj market.



9. Fibre being spread out for cleaning at the Seogarh market.



10. Fibre being cleaned at the Vishwanathgunj market.

Fibre from Partabgarh and Allahabad districts-- third.

Fibre from Benares and Jaunpur districts-- fourth.

18. *Markets and arrivals in 1929-30.*—

Market.	Arrivals. Maunds.
Partabgarh district—	
Vishwanathganj, Madhoganj, Chibila and Antu	50,000
Allahabad district—	
Sheogarh, Ismailganj talao, Siwait and Atrampur	100,000
Jaunpur district—	
Karakat, Ramdayalganj and Jaunpur	} 50,000
Azamgarh district—	
Rani-ki-Sarai	
Benares district—	
Maheshpur, Shahabad, Chaubepur, Shivpur	50,000

As the acreage under this crop grown for green manuring in the United Provinces is fairly large, and no separate figures are available for the crop grown for fibre, the arrivals of fibre in the markets are no index of the yield per acre.

Agents from Bombay and Calcutta firms, and from the factories of Shivpur near Benares purchase from these markets. In these markets the produce is usually made into *kutchu* bales of about 1 maund each by means of hand presses and is sent by rail, carts, camels and ponies to the factories at Shivpur for *pucca* baling.

19. *Marketing of United Provinces humps.*—The purchasing season starts from the middle of September and continues till the end of March. Arrivals vary according to market conditions. Cultivators usually sell their produce to the village dealer who brings it (photo 8) on carts, ponies or camels to a convenient larger market in the form of small bundles of hanks with the “loading” of dirt, dust and bits of stick (described on page 7, para. 16) and sells it to the market broker (*pucca arhatiya*) who takes an allowance of one to four seers per maund on account of dryage, when buying for the agents of the Bombay, Calcutta and Shivpur firms.

of 4 maunds 22 seers in weight and $4' \times 2\frac{1}{2}' \times 2$ feet in size. In other markets the bale is usually about one maund and its size about $3' \times 1\frac{1}{2}' \times 2$ feet.

Cost of handling, pressing and cartage from the market to the railway station works out at four to six annas per maund. A deduction of about one anna per cent. is generally made in the name of public charities, etc., and brokerage amounts to eight to twelve annas per cent.

(Appendix 10 gives a more detailed description of the charges levied for various marketing operations.)

Up to about three or four years ago Chandausi and Pilibhit fibre was in good demand by Bombay and Calcutta but a large part of it now goes to the Punjab, and Marwar in the Bombay Presidency, for local consumption there. Benares hemp is cleaned, sorted and full pressed into bales mostly at Shivpur, and is sent *via* Calcutta for export.

20. *Baling for export.*—There are two hydraulic presses at Shivpur both of which have an equipment for hackling. The dealers there have their private trade marks to distinguish their grades. Besides buying from the local markets, they also buy from Bihar-Sharif and Chupra in Bihar and Orissa, bring the material to Shivpur and bale it there and are said to ship it from Calcutta. The aggregate turnover of the two presses is about 60,000 bales per year.

The bales containing Pilibhit and Benares hemp bear the shipper's distinguishing marks but these have no reference either to the quality of the fibre, the locality of growth or the baling press. The bales weigh about 400 lbs. and measure $4' \times 1\frac{1}{2}' \times 1\frac{3}{4}$ feet.

21. *Grading and cleaning of Pilibhit hemp.*—The Pilibhit quality is mostly baled for export at Bombay but a small quantity is also baled at Shivpur (near Benares). It is baled either in a dressed or in an undressed condition and is usually cleaned and graded a little carefully before it is pressed. The grades of Pilibhit hemp exported are Pilibhit fine, Pilibhit No. 1 and Pilibhit No. 2.

Dressing consists of cleaning and hackling (photographs 15 and 16). The hackled fibre is made into loose hanks which are laid flat in the press. Tow from the dressed hemp is baled separately.

The undressed green hemp is only cleaned by beating with sticks and is not hackled. It is then re-made into hanks and thrown into the press anyhow.

22. *Grading and cleaning of Benares hemp.*—Benares hemp is graded into Benares 1, Benares 2 and Benares 3.

Cleaning and grading of the Benares quality is merely nominal. It is baled (photograph 17) in an un-hackled condition as the fibre is weak and so tangled that hackling would cause considerable loss in tow. The tangled mass is simply thrown into the pit of the hydraulic



15. Hackling of green hemp at the Parvati press—
Shivpur.



16. Hackling of green hemp at the Parvati press—
Shivpur.



17. Pressing Benares hemp into pucca bales at the Krishna press—Shivpur.

press along with the large quantity of stick and other refuse matter associated with this fibre.

23. *Cost of Handling.*---Rs. 5 per bale is the aggregate handling charge at the press for all the operations--cleaning, grading, pressing, cost of rope, loading, cartage and "railway station charges".

An extra Rs. 3 per bale is charged for dressed green hemp, as it is hackled and the packing of the bales in the press has to be more carefully done. Handling, shipping and port dues at Calcutta cost about seven annas per bale. The total charge per bale for Pilibhit and Benares hemp for all operations f.o.b. Calcutta thus amount to about Rs. 8-7-0 and Rs. 5-7-0, respectively. Freight and brokerage cost another 1 per cent. on the value of the consignment at the shipping port and 1 per cent. in London. About Rs. 5 per bale is the approximate expense for cleaning, grading, pressing and dock dues for the produce baled at Bombay, freight and brokerage being extra.

CHAPTER III.

26. *Cultivation.* The crop is raised on uplands. When there is enough moisture in the land, seed is broadcasted and the field is run over with the implement known as 'Pata'. In the absence of enough moisture in the soil, the seed is broadcasted on the unploughed land, then the land is ploughed and the Pata is run over it.

The seed rate is between 60 to 80 lbs. per acre, and sowing starts with the rains in the beginning of July, germination being completed in 2-3 days.

The cultivation of *sann* hemp ranks low according to social estimation, therefore it is usually left to communities such as *Kols*, *Gonds* and *Kudas* whose social status is of the lowest.

In the Patna and Bhagalpur districts the crop is grown mainly for fibre; in the Sambalpur district it is grown for both seed and fibre; and in the Purnea district it is grown mainly for seed production, the seed yield being five to six maunds per acre. The seed from Purnea is reported to suit conditions in the *sann* hemp tracts in Bengal, and is popular with Bengal cultivators.

In Patna district the fibre crop is harvested from the middle of September to the end of October when the plants are in full bloom, and pods are being formed. In this district farmers leave a few plots for seed production. In Sambalpur district and in surrounding feudatory states where the crop is grown both for seed and fibre (mainly for local consumption) the agricultural operations resemble those of the Central Provinces; and harvesting starts after the seed matures (*i.e.*, from the middle of November) and continues till the end of January.

27. *Harvesting and retting.*—The harvested crop is not dried before retting. When the crop is harvested by pulling out the plants, the tops and the root portions are cut before the bundles are immersed in flowing or still water. The material is then weighed down in the water with mud; but in Sambalpur district and the surrounding feudatory states stones are used for this purpose, as in the case of the Central Provinces. Cultivators are of opinion that fibre from a crop harvested after seed formation is coarse, dark and weak. The time required to ret the material varies according to the temperature of the water and this varies according to the month in which the crop is harvested.

28. *Time and period.*—In the case of *sann* grown in Patna district, and also of the *Desi* variety in Bhagalpur district, retting starts from about the 15th September and continues till the end of October. Whereas in the case of Parwari strain of the Bhagalpur district retting starts in the end of August or early September.

In Sambalpur district and the surrounding feudatory states retting and extraction of the fibre is done at leisure as in the Central Provinces. It starts from about the middle of November and is finished by the end of January. The retting period is three to five days in Patna district and eight to eleven in Sambalpur district, according to temperature of the water.

In Patna district the retted material is washed as in the United Provinces by beating first one end and then the other of the bundle on the surface of the water, and then by vigorously moving the bundles vertically up and down and twisting them round in the water. The vertical and twisting motions are especially effective in separating the hemp from the stem and about $\frac{1}{3}$ of the stem length is freed from it in this way, but this action collects the fibre in an entangled mass and lowers its market value considerably.

In Sambalpur district the retted material is washed by gently shaking the bundles in the water as in the Central Provinces and the fibre is not entangled.

29. *Extraction.*—In Patna district the fibre is completely separated from the stalk while it is still wet. A small portion of the butt end of the stem is broken in order to admit of a good hold of the fibre which is then stripped from the whole length of the plant; the fibre is then stretched out and left to dry.

In Sambalpur district the retted material is dried, usually for four to five days and the fibre is extracted from the dried stems at leisure as in the Central Provinces. When the fibre is extracted from wet stems it is spread out and dried.

In these three districts, *viz.*, Patna, Bhagalpur and Sambalpur the average yield of fibre per acre is four to six maunds, and the seed yield in the case of crops grown both for seed and fibre is two to four maunds per acre.

30. *Characters of the fibre.*—The produce from Sambalpur district and the neighbouring feudatory states, *viz.*, Balangir, Patna, Jasmunda, Lohashinga and Phuljhar is known in the trade as “green hemp”. The hemp from Balangir is considered the best in this class. Fibre from the Patna state is not as clean as that from Balangir, but ranks next to it. The produce of the Phuljhar state is strong but dark.

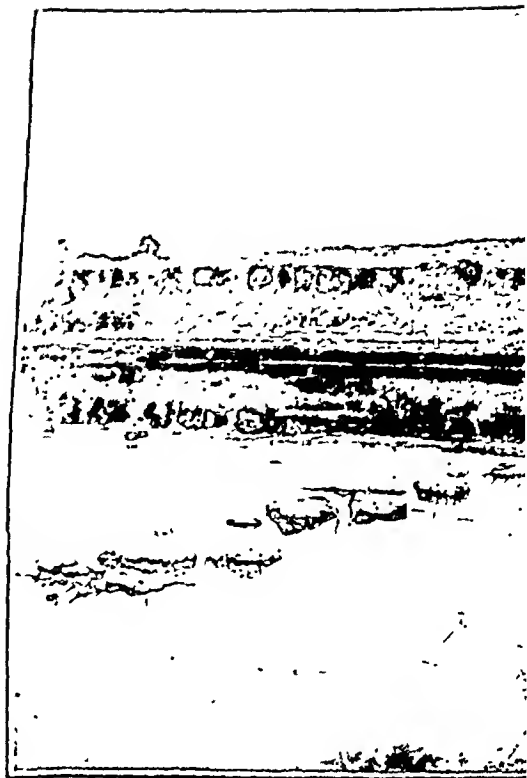
Generally speaking, the fibre from the Sambalpur district and neighbouring states is three to five feet in length, greenish, clean, fairly strong, comparatively free from sticks, but a little matted and coarse. It is not entangled because vertical stirring during washing is not practiced in this tract.

The white quality is received largely from Patna and Bhagalpur districts. It stands midway between the Benares and the Bengal qualities. It is clean, lustrous, a little tangled, about four to five feet long, fairly strong, a little coarse, and has some admixture of stick.

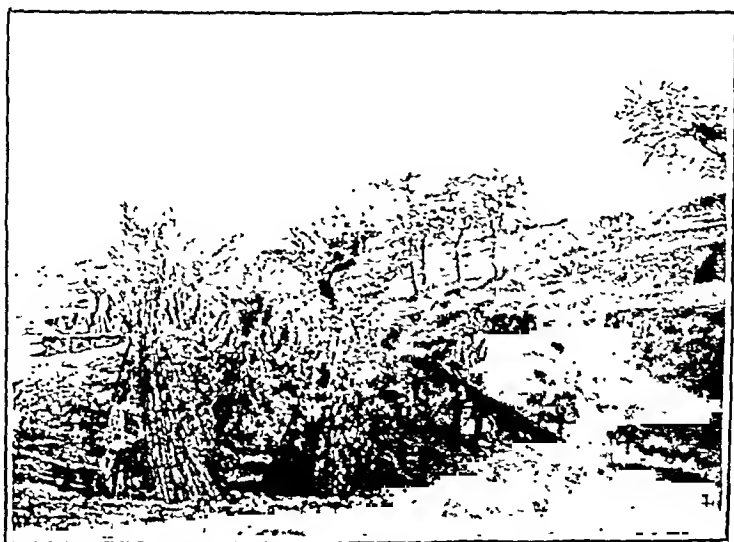
31. *Preparation of fibre for the market and its rates.*—After extraction the fibre is folded and twisted into small bundles known locally as ‘lundies’ in Patna and Bhagalpur districts; and as ‘bidies’ in Sambalpur district. The market rate of the produce varies according to the proportion of stick,



21. Retting at Chappara—stones indicating retting material.



22. Retting at Saliwara—Jubbulpore district, stones indicating retting material.



23. Retted bundles being removed from water.



18. Sunn hemp crop at Chappara.



19. Harvested crop being dried at Sahwara—
Jubbulpore district.



20. Dried straw made into bundles at Sahwara
Jubbulpore district.

In 1928-29 the arrivals in these markets were said to be as follows :—

	Mds.
Calcutta	25,000
Bombay	15,000

Calcutta being nearer than Bombay and railway freight being less to that market, some of the Bombay buyers have the fibre baled and shipped from Calcutta.

CHAPTER IV.

CENTRAL PROVINCES AND BERAR.

34. *Acreage*.—The average total area cropped during the last five years was 27,281,920 acres of which 117,706 acres was under *sann* hemp ; therefore the percentage of *sann* hemp to the total cropped area was 0.41. According to the Season and Crop Report for the year 1928-29, the area under *Sann* hemp in the Central Provinces and Berar (excluding Indian States) was 81,947 acres. *Sann* is grown throughout the province, but the principal districts where it is grown for fibre are Jubbulpore (2,578), Mandla (2,692), Seoni (6,409), Betul (2,956) and Chhindwara (3,305). Royle* stated that Jubbulpore hemp was the product of *Crotalaria tenuifolia* but this was considered by Bentham and Hooker as a synonym of *Crotalaria juncea* and a careful examination of the crops at Jubbulpore and other places in the Central Provinces by the author has not revealed any specific difference of character from the plant now known as *Crotalaria juncea*.

35. *Cultivation*.—For preparation of the seed bed, the field is ploughed twice and the 'pata' is run over it. The seed is broadcasted and the field is again ploughed and run over with the *pata* to cover the seed. Sowing is done with the rains about 15th June, the seed rate being about 80 lbs. per acre. The crop is grown for both seed and fibre (Photo. 18) and is harvested after the seed has matured. Here there is a general belief that fibre extracted after seed formation is stronger and has better colour.

Stem borer.—Cases of attack of the stem by the stem-borer, *Laspeyresia pseudonectis* are very common and the loss in yield and quality of the fibre is considerable.

36. *Retting in the Central Provinces*.—The harvested crop is left on the field to dry (Photo. 19) for three to ten days and then made into bundles (Photo. 20). The tops are cut for seed, and the bundles are retted flat in ponds or preferably in shallow flowing river-water, the material being weighed down with stones (Photos 21 and 22) or logs of wood ; mud is never used for this purpose. Retting continues from the middle of November to the end of March. At the Government Agricultural Farm, Sarkanda, the harvested crop after being dried is threshed by treading out the seed by bullocks, the heads of the plants only being trampled on ; the threshed plants are then retted.

* Royle, J. F.—Fibrous plants of India.

The retting period in flowing water is about eight days in December, eleven days in January, and fourteen days in February; in still water retting takes about four days less.

37. *Extraction.*—The retted material is washed by shaking the bundles gently in the water; they are then dried for four to five days (Photos 23 and 24) and the fibre is extracted usually at leisure by breaking the stems individually at several places and pulling the fibre off the woody part of the stem (Photos. 25 and 26). When the fibre is extracted from wet retted stems, it is dried by spreading on the ground (photo. 27).

The cultivation of this crop ranks low in social estimation, and is usually confined to people of the Gond caste. Even where other communities grow it, sowing and chopping of the tops for seed is entrusted to Gonds. Extraction is done by contract, the labourer receiving as wages either $\frac{1}{2}$ of the fibre yield, or 1 anna per seer of fibre extracted. The extracted fibre is folded and twisted into a small bundle known locally as "*muda*". The dry sticks are used as fuel. In some parts of the Central Provinces a layer of these is placed below the ordinary grass thatching. The seed yield is about two maunds per acre and the fibre yield is four to five maunds.

38. *Characters of the fibre.*—The fibre is three to six feet long; green, brownish or dirty green in colour; with little dirt and stick, and of varying strength. In strength and texture it is inferior to the Pilibhit quality. The cleanliness is due to the fact that mud is not used in weighing down the material during retting.

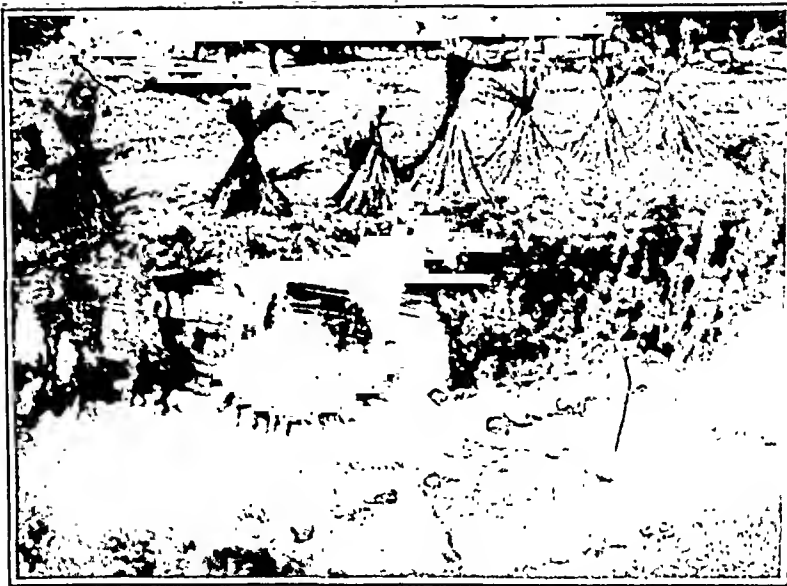
The major portion of the fibre produced in Bhainsdehi tehsil in Betul district is "Itarsi fine", which is the best quality fibre grown in the Central Provinces. In Betul district it is known as "Tapti fine". Fibre from Mandla district is considered the worst in the province, and has badly matted butt ends; but it is still superior to the Chandausi fibre in cleanliness and colour. Jubbulpore quality resembles to some extent the fibre from Pilibhit district in colour, strength and texture, but is cleaner.

Marketing.

39. *Markets and arrivals.*—The purchasing season starts from December, and continues till June, the largest arrivals taking place in March. The following are some of the chief markets which with the exception of Chappara are all close to a railway station:—

Arrivals.

	1925-26. Mds.	Estimated. 1931 Mds.
Chhappara (District Seoni) . . .	40,000—50,000	10,000
Keolari (District Seoni) . . .	40,000—50,000	5,000—6,000
Chhindwara district . . .	15,000—16,000	2,000
Betul district . . .	40,000—50,000 (Before 1922)	6,000
Jubbulpore Market for—		
Jubbulpore and Mandla districts . .	40,000—50,000	10,000—15,000



24. Retted bundles—water being drained off.



25. Extraction of fibre at Sarkanda farm, Bilaspur.



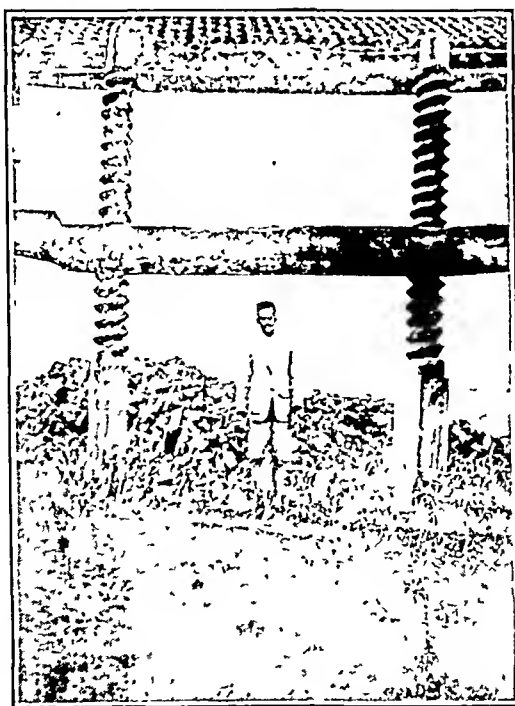
26. Extraction of fibre at Charaidongri—Jubbulpore district.



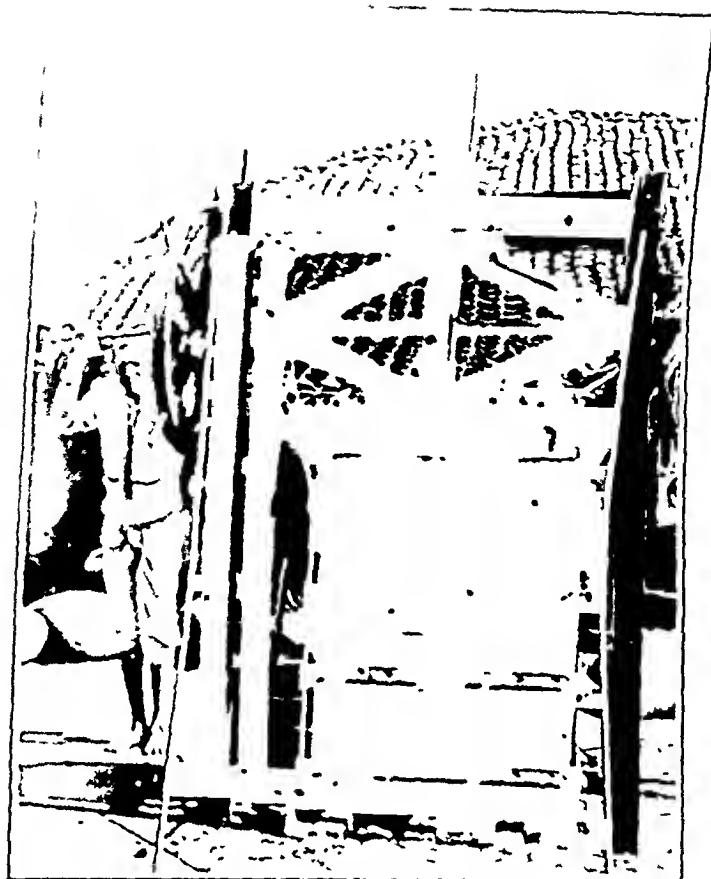
27. Fibre extraction and drying of fibre at Saliwara, Jubbulpore district.



28. Fibre being carried from Bergi to the Jubbulpore market.



29. Wooden hand press at Chappara.



30. Metal hand press at Chappara.



31. Metal hand press at Koolri.

From the above it will be seen that in the past five years the total outturn of the Central Provinces has dropped from over 200,000 maunds to about 50,000 maunds. About 20 per cent. of the fibre is shipped from Calcutta and 80 per cent. from Bombay.

40. *Quality of arrivals.*—Itarsi grows no fibre for export but before Betul got its railway connection, its produce used to go from Itarsi, which accounts for the name of one of the most important commercial grades of green hemp. The produce from Betul consists of the following local grades :—

Tapti fine,

Chicholi fine,

Berar fine (not usually available for export),

Sewnee and

Jubbulpore

with drops in price of $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 rupees per maund after each grade mentioned above. Tapti fine which is synonymous with Itarsi fine is the produce of Bhainsdehi tehsil of Betul district. Genuine "Itarsi fine" is limited in quantity and is often mixed with the best of Seoni fine and other comparatively inferior grades and marketed as "Itarsi fine". Fibres from Kareli (Hoshangabad district) Gadaiwara (Hoshangabad district), Narsinghpur and Katni districts are full of dust and inferior in quality.

Amarwara and Chhindwara tehsils are the chief producing areas in Chhindwara district. Produce from Sankh, a village in Chhindwara district, though limited in quantity, ranks next to "Tapti fine". The hems from Barelipar, Indawadi, Bhoma, Ghansoor, Palari, Keolari, Lughadwada and Chappara (all in Seoni district) though not of the same quality, are all included under the trade term "Sewnee".

Hemp from the Silondi tehsil of the Jubbulpore district ranks first and that from Bergi tehsil second. The produce from Mandla district which is also received in the Jubbulpore market is inferior to that from Bergi and Charaidongri both in Jubbulpore district. Silondi has its own market at Omaryar (Jubbulpore district) from where most of the produce is sent in *kutch*a bales to Bombay.

41. *System of purchase.*—The cultivator usually sells his produce to the village dealer who brings it on carts, camels or ponies (photo. 28) to the market for sale through a broker (pucca āhatiya). The price varies according to the proportion of the superior grades in the produce. The broker buys from the village dealer at $41\frac{1}{2}$ to 44 seers per maund and sells to the Bombay or Calcutta agents at 41 to 42 seers per maund. Out of the difference in weighments he gives the buyer some allowance for dryage and dust and keeps the rest for himself.

42. *Cleaning, rough sorting, kutch*a *baling in up-country markets.*—There are hand presses in the market and by means of these the fibre is made into *kutch*a bales (Photos. 29, 30 and three ma

weight. These are sent mostly to Bombay where they are opened ; their contents sorted into a number of trade grades and re-baled into *pucca* bales.

The grades of the Central Provinces hemp known in the hemp trade Bombay and Calcutta are :—

“ Itarsi fine ”

“ Sewnee fine,”

Seoni No. I,

Jubbulpore fine,

Jubbulpore and

Jubbulpore No. II.

The average Central Provinces hemp is superior to that from Pilibhit (United Provinces) ; and the worst C. P. fibre is said to be classed at the Chappara market under the Pilibhit grades. Jubbulpore extra fine is rarely available for export.

Handling in up-country markets of the Central Provinces costs about ten annas per maund at Chappara (Seoni district) and six to seven annas per maund at other Central Provinces markets (*vide* appendix 10). This includes weighing, *kutchra* baling, cartage to the station and “ station charges ”.

Cleaning, grading and pressing are done at Bombay and Calcutta. The average expense per bale f.o.b. Bombay or Calcutta is Rs. 5.

CHAPTER V.

BENGAL.

43. *Acreage*.—The average net area cropped during the last five years was 27,656,760 acres out of which 60,580 acres were under hemp ; the percentage of the *sann* hemp to the total cropped area is 0.22. According to the Season and Crop Report of 1928-29 the area under hemp in Bengal is 58,200 acres.

The *sann* hemp, known as the Bengal hemp, is largely grown in Serajganj sub-division of Pabna district (30,300 acres), the largest areas being in the thanas of Balrampur, Betkandi, Sholup, Balkuchi, Rajnagar-Kalibadi and Ullahapara. The crop is also grown to some extent in Narsindi (Dacca district 200 acres) in Lalpur, Salimganj, Ujanchar and Barait (all in Tiperah district 200 acres). The places in the Dacca and Tiperah district are all situated on the Meghna river. Five hundred acres of it are also grown in Madaripur and Nilkandi thanas in the Faridpur district.

44. *Cultivation*.—The seed bed is prepared with three to four ploughings and a laddering to smooth the surface. Seed is then broadcasted at the rate of about 120 lbs. per acre and the land laddered again. The high seed rate is a precaution against bad germination.

The *sann* grown for fibre is a *rabi* crop sown from September to October and harvested from January to February. Cultivation is confined to Mohaminadans and to a caste of Hindus known as Namashudras. Generally the rotation is, transplanted paddy, *sann* and jute.

45. *Retting*.—The crop is harvested by pulling up the plants when they are in full bloom and their pods are being formed. The harvested crop is made into bundles and neither root portions nor tops are removed before retting. Without any drying the bundles are generally first placed vertically bottom ends down, in nine to twelve inches of water and kept there for two to four days in order to soften the butts. The material is then immersed flat in flowing or stagnant water; covered with banana or banyan leaves, or with straw, and weighed down with mud.

The retting period is four to six days and it is said that retting in still water takes a day or two longer than in flowing water; also that the fibre is coarse, dirty and dark in the former case.

The officers of the Dacca Agricultural Farm stated that slow flowing water is the best medium for retting jute. This statement agrees with the opinion of the Senior Assistant of the Botany Section at Pusa who was incharge of *sann* hemp retting at the latter institute. Cultivators at Serajganj (Pabna district) were found to hold the same view.

46. *Extraction*.—The retted bundles are not washed before the fibre is extracted and the fibre is not extracted from individual stems as in other provinces. In Serajganj sub-division (Pabna district) a handful of stems are taken in the hand and about 2 feet of the butt ends are beaten with sticks. The fibre ends thus loosened are twisted round the right hand, and used to pull out the fibre off the whole stalks. In other districts a handful of stems is broken in the middle and beaten with sticks till the fibre is loosened; then the handful of stems is moved to and fro in the water and the central woody cores are removed. For quick working, three men are required; one man to beat the bundle in the middle and two men to move it to and fro and remove the woody cores.

The fibre is washed in water, doubled and twisted into a bundle known as *lachchhi*. The bundles are then placed on poles or strings to dry and when half dried, they are usually beaten against a *chatai* (mat) or a plank to remove any remaining woody cores and loosen the fibres from each other. The *lachchhis* are not so compactly made nor so tightly twisted as corresponding bundles in other provinces.

47. *Characters of the fibre*.—The fibre is up to 4½ feet long, clean, white, lustrous, strong, soft and not tangled. It contains little stick compared with white hemp from the United Provinces, or Bihar and Orissa. Serajganj fibre is whiter and softer than that from Faridpur district.

48. *Arrivals, grades and the system of purchase*.—The purchasing season starts from February and continues till the end of April, March being the busiest time. In the current year the arrivals of *sann* from Pabna—the principal district where *sann* hemp is grown for fibre—were estimated at 20,000 maunds.

The trade grade of Boneal hemp and the prices of these in the local market for the years 1924-25 and 1930-31 are as follows :—

	Per md. Rs. A.
<i>1924-25.</i>	
Grade No. 1	21 0
Grade No. 2	19 8
Grade No. 3	18 8
Grade No. 4	17 8

	Per md. Rs. A.
<i>1930-31 (estimated prices).</i>	
Grade No. 1	3 0
Grade No. 2	2 8
Grade No. 3	2 0
Grade No. 4	1 8

The local dealers (known as *beoparis* or *pharias*) who work as brokers, purchase on behalf of the agents of the hemp firms of Serajganj and Calcutta, direct purchase by these firms being uncommon. The *beopari* takes about half a seer extra per maund to meet losses in dryage, dirt, etc. The best half of the produce is purchased by fishermen at high rates for making fishing nets. A small portion is purchased by Dacca rope makers, and the rest is sent to Calcutta for export.

49. *Method of packing.*—The fibre is either cleaned, sorted and well packed in *Kutchu* bales each containing about three maunds of fibre, or is packed into uncleaned and un-sorted bundles weighing about 1 maund and known locally as 'bosta' and to the trade as 'drums.' The *kutchu* bales and 'drums' are sent to Calcutta and in the case of 'drums' cleaning and sorting are done at Calcutta.

Handling, pressing and other incidental costs of *kutchu* baling aggregate about Re. 0-10-6 per maund, whereas the cost of making 'drums' and other handling charges connected with these amount to annas five per maund.

At Narayanganj there is a hydraulic press and an important firm used to send consignments direct to Europe but has now ceased to do so.

CHAPTER VI.

MADRAS PRESIDENCY.

50. *Acreage.*—The average net annual area under all crops in the province for the last five years is 38,283,292 acres of which an average of 126,299 acres were under *sann* hemp, therefore *sann* hemp was .32 per cent. of the total cropped area. According to the Season and Crop Report of 1928-29 the area under *sann* hemp was 103,067 acres.

Sann hemp is grown throughout the presidency mostly for fodder and green manuring; and the acreage under this crop grown for fibre is very small. The actual percentage of *sann* hemp for fibre to the total cropped area must be very low.

The principal tracts are the districts of Ganjam (2,610 acres), East Godavari (16,227), Kistna (25,434) and Guntur (51,891). It is mostly grown for fodder, green manuring or seed in Kistna and Guntur district, therefore fibre from East Godavari and Warangal is supplied to these districts for local consumption. Crops for fibre are mainly confined to the delta portion of East Godavari, the largest area being in the villages—Peravaram, Vellicheru, Viddiparu, Ubalanka and Kothapatta.

51. *Varieties grown*.—Two agricultural varieties were reported (a) a large seeded and (b) a small seeded.

(a) is a fibre variety known locally as Ganjam or Godavari. It is broad-leaved, less branching than (b) and thin stemmed.

(b) is grown for green manuring and fodder. It is narrow leaved and its stem is also thin but more branching than (a).

52. *Cultivation*.—For fibre, green manuring or for seed production the crop is sown with the rains about the 15th June, and the crop for fibre and green manuring is harvested in September. The seed rate for a fibre crop is said to be twenty-five lbs. per acre. This is very low and by making the crop thin would stimulate branching in the plants which is undesirable. For seed production seed is sown mixed with other crops such as pulses, smaller millets and ground nuts and is harvested in the end of November. The yield of seed from the crop may be up to five hundred lbs. per acre depending on the proportion of *sann* hemp in the crop mixture. Fodder crops of *sann* hemp are raised after paddy and for these the seed is sown in October.

As regards pests, attack by the stem-borer is common and some crops become badly affected.

53. *Harvesting and retting*.—In September when the crop is in full bloom and pods are being formed, it is harvested by cutting, and after chopping off the tops, the plants are made into small bundles. (Photo. 32). The tops are fed to cattle and the bundles are spread out to dry for a day; then they are immersed in shallow stagnant pools, the material being weighed down with mud.

Retting and fibre extraction start from the beginning of September and continue to the end of November, the length of time taken to ret each lot of bundles being three to five days. Owing to the abundance of canal water near retting pools, water for retting and washing can be had easily, but the available supply is not utilized.

54. *Extraction*.—The cultivator stands between the retted bundle with the retted bundle between his hands and breaks the bundle up about one foot length from their butt ends, where the fibre is cut from the butts and throws the pieces of the bundle on the ground separated from the butt end is laid in the retting pool.

bundle down in the water with the left foot the fibre is separated from the whole length of the stem (Photos. 33 and 34). The fibre is then made into small bundles, tied at the butt ends and hung on bamboos for two to three days to allow the water to drain off (Photo. 35). After this the small bundles are spread out on the ground to dry properly, the dried fibre being then arranged lengthwise and made into large loose bundles or kutcha bales and sent to Cocanada by rail or in country boats. The fibre is not folded or twisted to form hanks as is done in other provinces.

55. *Characters of the fibre.*—It is three to four feet in length, matted, dirty green, heavily impregnated with mud, coarse, strong and with very little stick. Compared with Chandausi fibre, it is, however, more dirty, though stronger. Hemp from Gopalpur in the Ganjam district of Madras is clean but is not available in large quantities. Fibre from Parvatipur (East Godavari) is tangled and full of tow.

56. *Marketing.*—The season for purchasing hemp for export starts from December and continues to the end of January. The dry sticks are used for thatching (Photo. 36), for screens and as fuel and fetch about Rs. 5 per acre.

Usually the cultivator sells his produce to his village dealer to whom he is generally indebted. The latter collects considerable quantities of the hemp and brings it to the local market where it is purchased by some big local dealer. At Cocanada, which is the principal exporting port for *sann* hemp in the Madras Presidency, a broker generally buys it.

57. *Handling.*—Cleaning, sorting and baling of the fibre are done at Cocanada. *Kutcha* bales and bundles are opened and the fibre is spread out on stone platforms in the open yard of the press house. It is then beaten with sticks and shaken to remove 'loadings': then it is sorted according to colour and length but is not hackled.

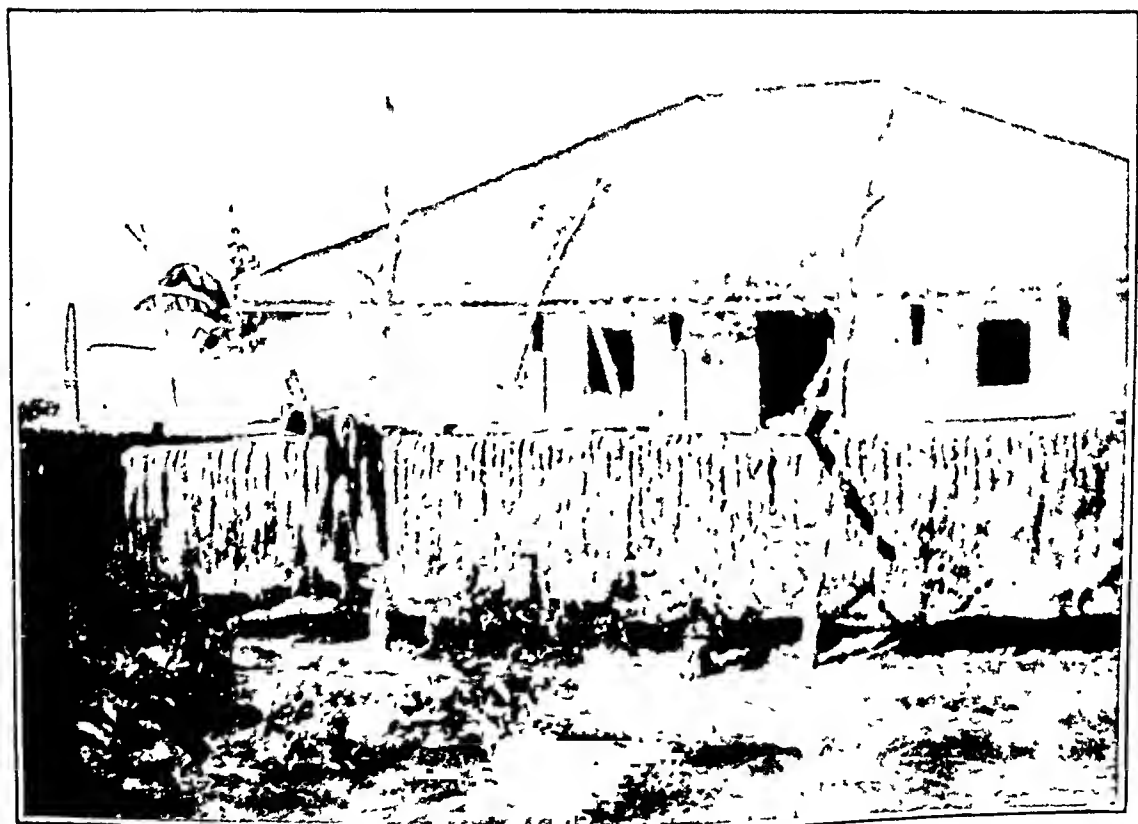
58. *Grades of fibre.*—Grades (in order of merit) and prices in 1929-30 :—

Grade.	Localities of Origin.	Prices per khandy of 500 lbs. each.
		Rs.
Upper Godavari	Dummgodum and Srivansa	85
Gopalpur	Ganjam district	73
Cocanada or country hemp	East Godavari	70
Warangal	H. E. H. the Nizam's territory	65
Pallinara hemp	Mangaltur in Narsonpur taluka	65

59. *Pressing.*—Cocanada the principal export market for *sann* hemp has one hydraulic press and two hand presses.



34. Extraction of fibre at Vellicheru—E. Godavari



35. Fibre being dried at Ucheli—E. Godavari.



36. Dry sticks used for thatching the roofs of huts at Uihukhly—E. Gochavari.

Bales which weigh about 400 lbs. each are made with a hydraulic press and a pressure of about three tons, the size of the pressed bale being about $4' \times 1\frac{1}{2}' \times 1\frac{1}{2}'$. About 150 bales are pressed per day of ten hours. The bales are covered with *hessian* and tied with iron hoops.

One of the hand presses is an Accumulative Power Press (McComb's Patent). It presses about 60 bales of 400 lbs. each per day of ten hours, the pressure applied being about two tons and the size of these bales being $3\frac{1}{2}' \times 2' \times 1\frac{1}{2}'$ feet. Such bales shipped last year from Cocanada to London were reported in London to have been preferred to those pressed tighter. The extra sea freight to London paid on account of the larger size of the bales was 1 sh. to 1 sh. 3d. per bale.

60. *Cost of handling.*—Transport by boat from the producing centre to Cocanada, cleaning, baling and carriage by boat to the steamer cost about Re. 0-15-4 per maund or Rs. 4-12-8 per bale of 400 lbs. each. For bales pressed by the hydraulic press the sea freight from Cocanada to ports in the United Kingdom is about 50 sh. per ton of 50 cubic feet and from Cocanada to Greek ports to which a few consignments are occasionally shipped it is about 65 sh.

61. †*Shipments abroad from 1st April 1929 to 31st March 1930 from*

(1) *Cocanada.*

	Bales.
Cocanada hemp	1,506
Gopalpur hemp	869
Upper Godavari	791
Warangal	195
Srivansa	26*
Dummagadam	18*
Pallinara	28
	<hr/>
	3,436 bales of 400 lbs. each.

(2) *From Vizagapatam and Bimlipatam.*

Gopalpur hemp	299 bales of 400 lbs. each.
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Gopalpur hemp when available is usually shipped to Antwerp and London whereas Warangal and Cocanada hems are shipped usually to Belgium and also occasionally to Greece.

The whole trade in Madras has been declining during the last three years. Transactions are mostly c. i. f. basis and are negotiated through London brokers.

* Shipments separate but belonging to Upper Godavari hemp.

† Figures were kindly supplied by Messrs. Ripley & Co., Cocanada.

London, Antwerp and Dundee are the usual ports of destination. Recently some consignments were shipped directly to Greece and Italy. Warehouse charges in London are so high that it is not profitable to stock small consignments very long. As with many other raw materials *sann* hemp also suffers to some extent in quality and weights in the transit (perhaps due to climatic effects), even if all precautions are taken against malpractices and the consignments are up to the standard specified in the invoice when shipped.

CHAPTER VII.

BOMBAY PRESIDENCY.

62. *Acreage.*—The average area cropped during the last five years was 32,099,215 acres out of which 115,984 acres were under *sann* hemp, the percentage of the former to the latter being .35. According to the Season and Crop Report of 1928-29 the area under *sann* in this Presidency (excluding the Indian States) was 102,629 acres.

The *sann* hemp is grown practically all over the province. But, since a large proportion of the crop is grown for green manuring, the high acreages recorded in certain districts, e.g., district Ahmednagar (11,926 acres) and district Belgaum (10,438) do not give any indication of the acreage grown for fibre production. The principal areas where the crop is grown at present for fibre lie along the Devgad, Waghote, Jaitapur and Purangad creeks in Ratnagiri district.

Stem-Borer.—Cases of attack by the stem-borer are very common and the loss in yield and quality of fibre is often heavy.

63. *Botanical work.*—Experimental work is in progress at the Hatkhamba Farm near Ratnagiri, to study the effects of the application of sulphate of ammonia and bone superphosphate on *sann* hemp, with a view to discovering whether the cultivator in that locality could replace the practice of *rab* (burning vegetable debris and cowdung on their fields before cropping them) by the application of these fertilisers. Some selection experiments for evolving wilt-resisting strains are being conducted at the Manjri Farm, Poona, by the Plant Pathologist to the Bombay Government.

As agricultural operations and the system of marketing in Belgaum district markedly differ from those in the Ratnagiri district, the practices of both of these districts are discussed below separately. Under the Belgaum district, however, reference will occasionally be made to fibre from Panmahals, Thana and Khandesh districts which is in some respects similar to Belgaum fibre.

BELGAUM DISTRICT.

64. *Areas and cultivation.*—The crop is grown in Chikodi, Hukeri and Gokak talukas in Belgaum district. Cultivators there grow *sann* hemp for green manuring and to a smaller extent for fibre, which is at present largely used for local consumption.

In this district seed is sown during the third week of May and a small portion of the crop is harvested by cutting in September when seed is being formed, so that the field can be prepared for gram, garlic and onion ; but the major portion of the crop is harvested from December onwards by pulling up the plants when the seed has fully matured ; in that case the fields are then sown with sugarcane. The seed rate for fibre is about 60 lbs. per acre.

65. *Retting, extraction and characters of the fibre.*—The crop harvested in September is retted for about three days, while that harvested in December and January is retted for about four. Considering the low temperature in December, the four days retting is not sufficient and the fibre is matted, *i.e.*, the cellulose matter connecting the bast fibres is not sufficiently retted to allow these fibres to separate. The material is retted in ponds without previous drying, and is weighed down in the water with stones (Photo. 40).

In Belgaum district the village dealer purchases the dried bundles from the cultivators and gets the retting and extraction done on contract at four annas per *bhara* (*bhara*=1 to $1\frac{1}{4}$ maund of 82 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs. each), the approximate yield of green stems per acre being about 200 *bharas*. The labour for retting and extraction is largely supplied by people of the *mahar* and *berad* castes and to some extent by *lingavats* and *jains*. A person can extract fibre from two *bharas* per day.

After extraction the fibre is not folded, but is made into bundles known as '*mudas*' which consist of three portions of fibre being twisted lengthwise like a three-ply rope. A number of *mudas* are tied together to form a large bundle for transport. The fibre is extracted from individual stems (Photo 42) and is known as "*Hirakashi*" in the local markets. In the trade it is known as Salsi hemp. It is three to five feet in length, dirty green, coarse, weak and admixed with dust.

66. *Markets—arrivals and handling.*—The Belgaum district possesses two principal markets for *sann* hemp, *viz.*, Sankeshwar and Nipani. The average annual arrivals of fibre at these markets from Belgaum district about 5 years ago were 8,000 to 10,000 maunds, but they have gone down considerably since then.

Belgaum fibre is at present partly used up locally and partly supplied to Bijapur, Kolhapur, Jamkhindi and Vengurula for making ropes, fishing nets, bags and fireworks.

The fibre made in Panchmahal district was known to the trade as '*Godhra*' hemp but is said to be no longer exported. It is loaded with sand and dust, but is a little superior to the '*Salsi*' hemp. Fibre from Khandesh district is also largely used for local consumption. It is superior in length and lustre to '*Godhra*' hemp but contains varying percentages of sand.

'*Salsi*', '*Godhra*' and '*Khandesh*' hems can be improved by hackling but there is no demand at present for hackled hemp as it is more expensive, and the rates offered are not remunerative. Besides,

the prospect of extending the cultivation of *sann* hemp in the competition with more remunerative crops is unlikely at present.

67. *Cost of handling*.—When the produce from Belgaum district used to be sent to Bombay (*i.e.*, about 5 years ago), the cost of weighing, packing, brokerage, cartage and other incidental items were about six annas per maund *f.o.r.* Hukeri Road (Belgaum district).

RATNAGIRI DISTRICT.

68. *Areas*.—The cultivation of *sann* hemp for fibre for export is spread over the whole tract of Devgad and Rajapur talukas in the district (8,170 acres). *Sann* hemp is a cash crop raised by every cultivator to enable him to pay his cash rent. It is known locally as 'chakarmani' crop.

It is grown along the coastal creeks which facilitate transport. The principal trade centres with their arrivals in 1929-30 are :—

	Kandys.
Devgad (Devgad taluka)	700—800
Waghotan (Devgad taluka)	500—600
Kharepatan (Rajapur taluka)	1,000
Rajapur (Rajapur taluka)	1,000

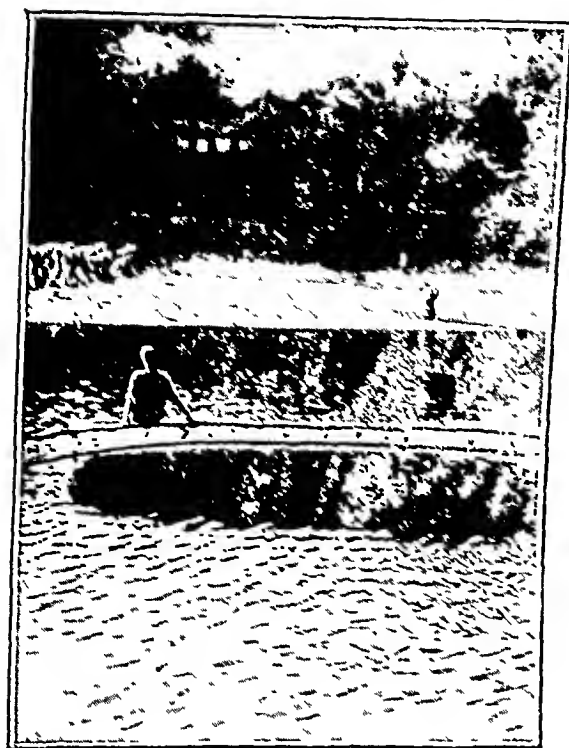
Fibre from the Ratnagiri district is well known in the export trade as the "Dewghuddy" grade and is considered the finest grade of hemp exported from India. But the total average produce from the district is very small (3,500 to 5,000 kandies). Fibre from Khudy in Devgad taluka is considered the best quality of Ratnagiri fibre.

69. *Cultivation*.—Cultivation is in the hands of the Bhandari and Kulvadi communities and the *sann* hemp is grown only for fibre. It requires well drained soil and is generally grown on the slopes. The soil is prepared first by burning leafy branches, grass and cow-dung together (the 'rab' process) and then is ploughed and levelled. *Nachvi* (*Eleusine coracana* Gaertn) is sown in the beginning of June with the rains. The ears of this crop are plucked and the straw is ploughed into the field in preparing the land for *sann* hemp which is sown in the middle of August. The crop is grown in isolated patches, as a result of the peculiar contour of the land. Therefore it was difficult to ascertain the exact seed rate but it was locally reported to be between sixty and eighty lbs. per acre.

70. *Seed supplies*.—The crop grown for fibre is harvested before the seed is ripe and consequently seed has to be obtained from elsewhere. Seed was formerly obtained from Nipani in Belgaum district, but at present it is got from Bulsar and Pardi (both in Surat district), Bilimora (Baroda State) and Daman in the Portuguese territory. Seed from Godhra and Jubbulpore was also tried formerly in Devgad and Rajapur talukas but was found unsatisfactory, as the plants raised from this seed branched considerably.

Seed is usually purchased from local dealers on the "sawai" system* or on credit with varying rates of interest.

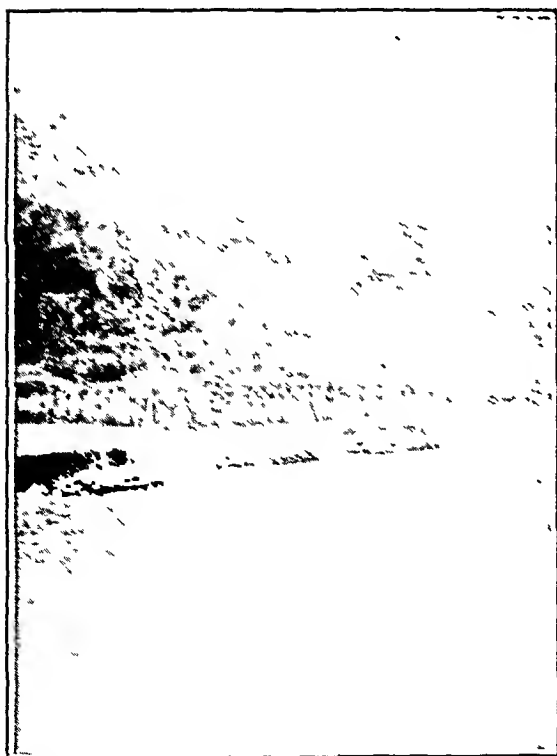
* "Sawai"—Literally means that the borrower returns $\frac{1}{2}$ more than he borrowed, but in practice it involves some further obligations on the borrower.



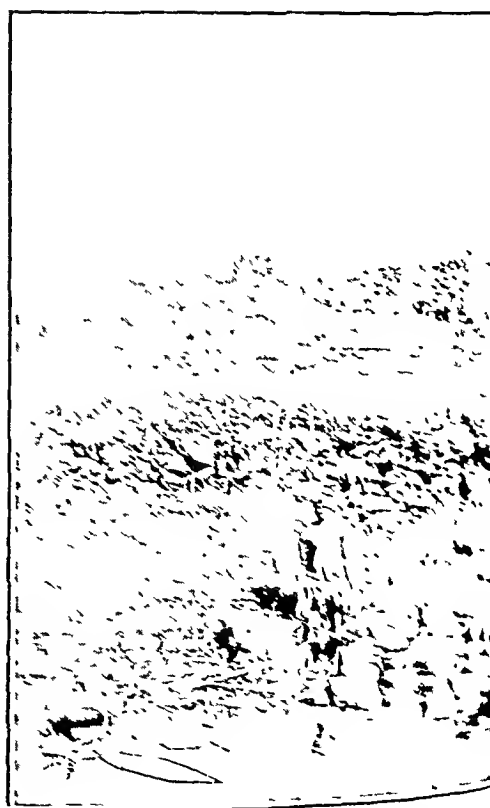
37. Bundles of straw being arranged in a raft for retting at Rajapur.



38. The raft being partially immersed in



39. The raft being completely immersed at Rajapur—stones indicating the retting material.



40. Retting at Hattar—Rajapur—

71. *Harvesting, drying and retting.*—The crop is harvested by pulling the plants up when they are in full bloom, about the middle of November, usually three months after sowing and the harvested crop is thinly spread on the rocky surface of the plateau or hill slopes for nearly a fortnight, during which it is turned over once or twice. If harvested hemp plants happen to be wetted by rain while they are being dried, the fibre from such plants becomes dark and weak. Therefore harvesting is done after the rainy season so that the harvested crop may not be damaged by rains. Dews are heavy in this season and consequently this procedure results in a sort of preliminary dew retting. The cultivators there hold that it is not possible to obtain a fine quality fibre without adopting this method. It is noteworthy that the method of harvesting, dry and retting is almost the same as is practised in Italy which produces the best quality soft hemp in Europe.

The dried plants are then made into bundles, and the top portions are cut off. The root portions are not removed; hence the fibre from the butt ends of the plants is much matted and bear dark spots. The bundles are placed side by side to form a sort of raft (Photos 37, 38 and 39) and kept in position by bamboo poles. They are then immersed in fresh water streams (the sea creeks are not used) or in ponds for four to six days. The material is covered with grass and coconut leaves and weighed down with stones. Mud is not used. Information regarding the differences in the retting period in flowing and still water could not be collected. After retting, the bundles are removed from the water and stacked like rifles vertically on the banks for a day or so to allow the water to drain off (Photo. 41). Retting and extraction continue from the middle of November to the end of January.

72. *Extraction.*—The fibre is extracted in the wet condition by breaking off a bit from the butt end of each stem to enable the worker to catch hold of the freed fibre and thus enable him to pull it off from the whole stem in long clean strips. One person can extract up to four lbs. of fibre per day. The dried stalks are used as fuel or as torches at night.

After being dried the fibre is folded, and then twisted into bundles known locally as "*pendi*". "*Pendies*" are made into bigger bundles and despatched to Bombay by country boats.

In Rajapur taluka (Ratnagiri district) Hindu communities (Kulvadi, Bhandari, Brahmin and Vani) grow the crop but do not undertake retting and extraction; these are left to the local Muhammadan dealer who purchases the dried bundles of plants from the cultivators.

73. *Characters of the fibre.*—The fibre is 4 to 5½ feet long, clean, greenish or creamy yellow, less matted (*i.e.*, in ribbons) and softer than Itarsi fine; strong but the butt ends much matted due to under-retting and dark. Hackled fibre from Devgad and Vijayadurg is fairly soft, strong and golden coloured. The produce possesses the qualities required by foreign markets and were it not for the defective butt ends, it would be



41. Retted material being dried at Bhatwadi—Devgad.



42. Extraction of fibre at Hukeri—Belgaur



43. Frame for tying fibre into bundles at Raiapur.



44. Podav carrying sunn hemp from Khann Rajapur.

The fibre from Malwan, one of the talukas of the Ratnagiri district is very coarse and is consumed locally for making ropes, fishing nets, etc.; it hardly enters the trade.

Ratnagiri fibre is the best in India and mostly sent to Bombay for foreign export; a little is used locally or sent to Málabar for making fishing nets and ropes.

76. *Packing and handling in the local markets and transport to Bombay.*—The produce is pressed in local markets by means of bamboo levers, or in a wooden press (Photo 43) and is sent to Bombay in country boats (Photo 44) known as *phatamaris*.

The average aggregate cost of weighing, brokerage and packing in the local markets and of freight in country boats to Bombay is annas 15 to Re. 1-2 per maund.

77. *Pressing and handling at Bombay.*—The produce is cleaned, graded and baled properly at Bombay at a cost of Re. 1-4 per maund including the cost of iron hoops and dock charges. The average annual export in the period 1924-25 to 1928-29 from Bombay was 132,172 cwts. valued at Rs. 3,201,296 against the pre-war of 222,073 cwts. valued at £213,410 or Rs. 3,291,150 (at Rs. 15 per £).

The exporting firms at Bombay generally enter forward contracts through their local brokers, advances being given to the village dealers for supplying stipulated quantities within a specified time. "Ready" sales are also fairly common; in such cases the brokers generally charge interest at 9 per cent. per annum to the *exporting firms*.

CHAPTER VIII.

A REVIEW OF THE AGRICULTURAL AND MARKETING CONDITIONS AND PRACTICES IN THE HEMP GROWING AREAS, MET WITH DURING THE ENQUIRY, AND SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT.

78. *Areas and qualities of hemp grown.*—The principal provinces where *sann* hemp is grown for fibre are the United Provinces, Bihar and Orissa, Bengal, Madras and Bombay. As regards the United Provinces the principal tracts lie in—

- (i) the districts of Benares, Jaunpur, Azamgarh, Allahabad and Partabgarh. These yield Benares hemp;
- (ii) Pilibhit and Moradabad districts grow the crop on a small scale and yield "green" hemp known in the trade as Pilibhit hemp.

In the Central Provinces, cultivation for fibre is confined to Jubbulpore and Narmada divisions; these yield Itarsi, Jubbulpore and Sewnee qualities.

In Bihar and Orissa, the Patna and Bhagalpur districts yield "white" hemp which is mid-way in quality between Benares hemp and Bengal hemp; Sambalpur district yields the same qualities of green hemp as the Central Provinces. In Bengal the Serajganj sub-division of Pabna district is the principal *sann* hemp growing tract and yields "Bengal hemp".

In Madras Presidency the cultivation of *sann* hemp for export is confined more or less to Ganjam and East Godavari. In the Bombay Presidency Ratnagiri is the principal tract where at present the crop is largely grown for fibre for export and yields the Dewghuddy quality.

79. *Soil, seed and seed rate.*—*Sann* hemp will grow on any soil, but it thrives best on light, well-drained land. It is not profitable to grow the crop on heavy or very poor soil or on low lands, as the plants raised on such soils are stunted in growth and yield only coarse and brittle fibre.

An examination of samples of seed at different centres revealed admixtures in varying proportions of immature and foreign seed and it is likely that old seed was also present. As was to be expected, crops were almost invariably found to be full of weed. Weed seed can be removed by sieving and the percentage of old seed in the bazar samples can be ascertained by simple germination tests. The seed rate varies from province to province but is usually sixty to eighty lbs. per acre except in Bengal where it is approximately 120 lbs., and in Madras where it is 25 lbs. per acre. The heavy seed rate prevalent in Bengal appears to have been adopted as a precaution against bad germination. It undoubtedly suits the local conditions there. A heavy seed rate usually makes the crop very thick and the fibre obtained from such a crop is likely to be weak; but in Serajganj (Bengal) this usual result was not noticed.

The reported rate of 25 lbs. per acre in East Godavari (Madras) appears to be rather low, and, as is to be expected from a low seed rate, the crops there were found to be very thin, the stems have a tendency to branch and development of woody tissue is stimulated. Fibre from such a crop tends to become coarse and brittle.

The best seed rate depends on the quality of the seed and condition of the seed bed. About 60 lbs. of good pure seed per acre should generally suffice, but the exact rates must be worked out for each tract.

Yield of fibre.—The yield of fibre in maunds ranges from two to ten maunds per acre, the average being four to six maunds.

80. *Improvement of the strains grown.*—The results of the selection experiments on the improvement of this crop conducted by the Economic Botanist, Cawnpore, seem to show that the inherent qualities of the fibre—fineness, length and maturity—differ considerably in different strains and that there is scope for improvement of the fibre by plant selection.

One chief difficulty is that of maintaining the purity of the improved strain since free cross-pollination seems to be the main mode of fertilization of the plant. To prevent contamination of improved strains when

multiplying their seeds it is essential to grow them on a seed farm, isolated from other inferior strains and when the superiority of a new strain has been established its extension under careful control must be rapid so that inferior strains are replaced by the superior one in as short a time as possible. Considerable demonstration and propaganda will be necessary to impress the monetary advantages of the new strains on the cultivator who above everything is a hard headed practical man.

It is not, however, possible for the fibre even of a superior strain to secure a fair premium until the fibre is produced on a commercial scale and separately marketed. For optimum permanent improvement the extension of improved strains and the organization of marketing should, therefore, synchronize.

Stem-borer.—Cases of attack of the stem-borer—*Laspeyresia pseudo nectis*—which damages the apex of the shoot and arrests the further growth of the stem, were found in all the provinces. Also if the attack takes place at a very early stage, the fibre obtained is short and the loss in yield is heavy losses to the extent of one-third to one-half of the crop were met with by the Economic Botanist, United Provinces, during the course of his experiments. As effective measures of control are not so far known, it is essential that this problem should receive the attention of the agricultural departments.

81. *Sowing and harvesting dates, stage at which the crop should be harvested and method of avoiding different lengths of fibre*.—In the United Provinces, Bihar and Orissa and in the Madras Presidency the crop is generally grown for fibre; and there it is sown with the monsoon and harvested towards the end of September or the beginning of October when the plants are in bloom. In the Central Provinces and in the districts of Moradabad (U. P.) and Sambalpur (B. and O.) *sann* hemp is grown for both seed and fibre. In all the three places and for both purposes the seed is sown with the monsoon and the crop is harvested after seed formation from the middle of November to the end of February. In Ratnagiri district it is grown only for fibre and is sown about the middle of August after removal of the smaller millets; it is harvested from January to March when the pods are being formed. In Bengal it is grown only for fibre; it is sown between September and October and harvested between January to March when the pods are being formed.

If the crop is cut a little early as is done in the United Provinces (excepting Bilari tehsil) and Bihar and Orissa (excepting Sambalpur) the fibre though white and soft is found to be weak; if it is harvested after seed formation as is done in Bilari tehsil (in the Central Provinces) and Sambalpur, the fibre tends to turn green and coarse but it is strong.

The length of time required by the plant to develop the fibre depends on the climatic conditions under which the plant grows and whether fibre develops the desired commercial characters, e.g., strength, colour and softness—at flowering time, or when seed begins to mature, or at a stage between flowering time and seed formation, can only be determined for each of the important *sann* hemp tracts by actual experiment.

Owing to the great diversity of climatic and other conditions, such experimental work must be decentralised. In the United Provinces the Economic Botanist obtained the best results by harvesting the crop eleven weeks after sowing when the pods were being formed.

If, before retting, the stems be sorted according to length, and each assortment of stems be retted and stripped separately, the mixture of fibre of different lengths could be avoided. It is difficult to sort fibre according to its length after extraction.

82. *Drying of the harvested crop.*—In the United Provinces, Bihar and Orissa, Bengal and Madras, the harvested crop is not usually dried before retting; in the Central Provinces on the other hand it is dried for varying periods, and in Ratnagiri district (Bombay) it is carefully dried for a fortnight before retting.

Betul in the Central Provinces and Devgad in the Bombay Presidency produce the best *sann* hemp at present though the climatic and agricultural conditions differ in the two places. It is noticed, however, that the practice of drying the harvested crop before retting exists in both the tracts (*see paras. 36, 75*). Also it may be noted that the method of drying in Devgad is practically the same as that followed at Bologna and Ferrara in Italy. Therefore, it is desirable to ascertain whether the fine quality (*e.g.*, colour and strength) of the produce from Betul and Devgad is due to such drying; and if so, it might also be tried in the other *sann* hemp tracts.

83. *Retting and washing.*—The method of retting and period required to ret the plants differ from Province to Province and sometimes from district to district in the same province. But obviously the length of time taken to ret plants must depend on the temperature of water, and must vary according to the season. It is shorter in slow flowing shallow water where the water temperature is higher than in deeper still water of ponds. In the former case also bacterial activity is not hampered by the accumulation of putrified material as it is in still water. Cultivators in Ratnagiri district, in the Central Provinces and in Bengal believe that the colour, strength and softness of the fibre is improved by retting in slow flowing water, but the general opinion held by cultivators elsewhere is just the opposite.

A sudden fall in temperature of the water is said to tend to discolour the fibre. Also if the same water is repeatedly used for retting, the fibre will be discoloured and the fibre from successive lots retted in the same pool will tend to vary in shade. These problems offer suitable field for investigation, experiment and educative propaganda.

Admixture of dust and dirt in the Pilibhit (U. P.) and Coimbatore (Madras) hemp are due to retting in muddy water and absence of washing; if pucca tanks with wells attached could be constructed at certain places in *sann* hemp tracts they would undoubtedly prove useful in washing the fibre. But unless they are built on co-operative lines by capitalists in the *sann* hemp areas, who would be prepared to let the use of these tanks to neighbouring cultivators on very easy terms.

may not prove economical. Old deserted indigo vats are available in certain *sann* hemp tracts and would be very useful for washing ; for retting, however, they would be rather small.

The weakness of Benares hemp is due to over-retting and the tangled state of its fibre to washing the retted bundles with a vertical and twisting motion. The defective butt ends of Ratnagiri (Bombay Presidency) fibre are due to the root portions not being cut off before retting.

Cultivators should be educated to realise the loss that is caused by the defects in their methods of retting.

84. *Sweating*.—"Sweating" of the retted material is unknown in India but is said to be commonly practised in Russia and Italy. The retted bundles are washed and left standing stacked like rifles for a day to allow the water to drain off. Then the bundles are spread out to dry for a day, after which they are heaped together and covered with straw to make them 'sweat'. When the bundles have 'sweated' enough they are again stacked like rifles so that the air passing through and between the bundles dries them slowly. Though Russian and Italian hems are obtained from *Cannabis sativa* which is botanically quite different from *Crotalaria juncea* which produces the Indian *sann* hemp, 'sweating' experiments might be tried on *sann* hemp to ascertain their effect on the quality of the fibre.

85. *Extraction*.—The fibre is extracted from the retted stalks while they are wet, or after allowing the water to drain off, or after they are thoroughly dried. The method of extraction also varies from province to province and sometime from district to district. In the United Provinces, in Bihar and Orissa and in Ratnagiri district (Bombay Presidency) the fibre is extracted from individual stems, while in Allahabad district (U. P.) and in Bengal and Madras it is stripped from the whole bundle of stems in one operation.

Extraction of fibre from individual stalks is preferable to extraction from the whole bundle, as the latter method fails to remove all the fibre ; also the fibre becomes somewhat tangled and entails loss in tow during cleaning operations. Beating of the retted material with cudgels which is a common practice in some parts of Bengal (para. 46) appears to be detrimental to strength and evenness.

Breaking and scutching by hand and power machines similar* to those used in Russia and Italy for extracting fibre from *Cannabis sativa* could perhaps be used for extracting fibre from the green stems of *sann* as well as from the retted material.

The fibre extracted from *sann* without retting is harsh, coarse, and unsuitable for spinning, but it may not lack in strength, and may, like other hard fibres be good enough for cordage. *Sann* hemp is a cheaper

* Oakley, F. J.—Long Vegetable Fibres. Pub. E. Benn, Ltd., London, 1928.
Woodhouse, T. and Kalgour, P.—Cordage and cordage hemp and fibres.—Pub. Isaac Pitman & Co., Ltd., London, 1919.
Goulding, E.—Cotton and other Vegetable fibres. Pub. John Murray, London, 1917.
Wissott, R.—Cultivation and preparation of hemp, 1804.

fibres than the Italian and Russian hemp and at present is not very remunerative to the cultivator; hence caution in introducing expensive methods is necessary.

The Indian hemp at present generally lacks the softness of the Russian and Italian hemp. If the experiments undertaken at the Technological Institute, Cawnpore, by Mr. Mulani on retting and softening the fibre with cheap chemicals could evolve a cheap method for softening some of the coarse qualities in Indian hemp, without impairing its strength and other useful characters, the Indian hemp will be better able to compete with the Russian hemp; and Dewghuddy and Itarsi grades will form suitable substitutes for the Italian hemp.

86. *Making of hanks.*—The dried fibre is made into hanks which generally serve to hide “loading” matter and tend to twist the fibre.

The fibre should be tied only at the butt end as is done in East Godavari (Madras) or slightly twisted into hanks as is done in the case of hackled hemp.

Tight and compact twisting damages the fibre and entails undue expense to undo it, also wastage when it is undone. Besides, it successfully hides any stick left inside and makes inspection very difficult; Allahabad fibre presented this difficulty.

As a result of pressing, the sticks and mud in the hanks get fixed to the fibre, and the hackling of Benares hemp, weak as it is, is made extremely difficult. It also involves heavy loss in tow.

87. *Effect of agricultural and retting practices on the fibre.*—As far as the season of growth and the harvesting time are concerned, the fibre from Bilari tehsil (included in the trade grade Pilibhit hemp) should resemble fibre from the Central Provinces; and Cocanada hemp should resemble the produce of Benares. In actual fact, however, these resemblances do not occur and even in the trade they are not known by identical names. On the other hand Bilari fibre resembles Cocanada hemp in spite of differences in climatic and harvesting conditions.

Differences of strength, colour and texture between Bilari fibre and Central Provinces fibre seem to be largely due to the method of retting in muddy water and want of washing. Cocanada hemp resembles Pilibhit hemp in colour, dirtiness and texture owing to the similarity of the method of retting in muddy water and want of washing.

Bengal fibre is stronger, whiter, softer, cleaner and with less stick than Benares hemp; and whether the superiority of Bengal fibre is due to its season of growth, method of retting, climatic conditions or varietal differences of plants grown can only be ascertained by experiments.

Dewghuddy hemp (from Ratnagiri district) forms a class by itself in regard to colour, strength, cleanliness and texture and is superior in its commercial qualities to genuine Itarsi hemp which is considered the best among the green hems from the Central Provinces and Sambalpur

district of Bihar and Orissa ; the difference might be due to harvesting before seed formation and careful drying before retting.

The differences in the commercial qualities in the produce from the various centres of production are thus partly due to the indifferent handling of the crop by cultivators and partly to the lack of uniformity in the time of harvesting, method and period of retting, and preparation of the fibre as practised in the different areas. In the United Provinces the produce of villages in Allahabad, Partabgarh and other areas producing Benares hemp contains varying proportions of the grades—Benares Nos. 1, 2 and 3 ; similarly the produce of Bilari tehsil (Moradabad district) and Pilibhit district contains the grades—Pilibhit, fine and Nos. 1 and 2, in varying proportions.

Similarly fibre from the Central Provinces and Sambalpur district contains varying proportions of the grades—Itarsi fine, Sewnee fine, Jubbulpore fine and Jubbulpore No. 1. For example, Chhindwara fibre contains 60 per cent. Itarsi fine, 25 per cent. Sewnee fine, 15 per cent. Jubbulpore fine while in the fibre from Jubbulpore district are found 5 per cent. of Itarsi fine, 60 per cent. of Jubbulpore fine, 25 per cent. of Jubbulpore No. 1 and 10 per cent. of Sewnee fine.

Again Bengal hemp contains in varying proportions, the grades—Bengal Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 4. Fibre from different villages in Duvgad and Rajapur talukas contains, on an average $12\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. of Dewghuddy double fine, 25 per cent. of Dewghuddy fine, $37\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. of Rasband and 25 per cent. of Ras.

It is only by actual experiments that the reasons for varying proportions of the different grades in the produce of any local area can be ascertained ; such experiments will have to be based on an observation of the methods, most suitable for any particular grade in that area. Experimental work of this type is a necessary preliminary stage before the current agricultural practices could be improved and thereafter disseminated.

MARKETING.

88. *Collection of fibre for the market and some malpractices.*—The grower sells his small quantities of fibre to the village dealer who is the primary collector and being frequently handicapped by his poverty and indebtedness to that dealer he cannot afford to hold back his stock even when he is offered a price lower than he should reasonably get. The producer is thus more often than not at the mercy of the buyer.

The weights used by the village dealer are rarely tested and sometimes consist of rough pieces of stone. It is desirable that the use of authorised iron weights should be prescribed in each province. Besides, as a rule, small quantities are weighed out at a time with the result that the primary dealer gets one to four seers more of the produce per maund by the often repeated turns of the scale in his favour.

As a result the farmer tends to be indifferent regarding the preparation of the fibre. On the other hand he sometimes resorts to malpractices, e.g., loading which hanks help to conceal, and damping. The village dealer collects fibre from a number of cultivators and brings the mixture to the nearest important collecting centre or market as the case may be. In this way mixtures of various qualities not only from different villages but also from different districts and sometimes adjoining provinces are collected at the market.

The number of middlemen through whose hands the fibre passes before it reaches the exporters varies according to the distance between the production centre and the market. The agents of exporting firms usually visit these upcountry collecting centres and make their purchases through *ārhatiyās* (local brokers and commission agents) but some times the exporting firms purchase their requirements directly (without agents) through their *ārhatiyās*. After the fibre is purchased, it is mixed up into one lot with the result that the defects which are in any one lot appear in the whole mass.

The desirability of controlling the transport of *sann* hemp from one growing centre to another with the object of discouraging adulteration should be considered and if necessary suitable legislation should be adopted. The problems of adulteration will have to be studied with care and discrimination and no undue restrictions should be imposed on the grower. Such measures might tend to discourage the mixing of the different qualities of *sann* hemp which are at present practised, e.g.—

- (i) inferior green hemp from Chandausi (U. P.) and Bareilly (U. P.) with better hemp from Pilibhit (U. P.) or
- (ii) dirty hemp from Gadarwara (C. P.) and Narsinghpur (C. P.) with clean fibre from Seoni (C. P.) and Jubbulpore (C. P.), or
- (iii) Allahabad (U. P.) hemp which is full of stick, with Azamgarh (U. P.) hemp which has very little stick in it.

89. *Other Malpractices.*—Other current malpractices, e.g., damping, mixing with dirt, stick and other foreign matter, etc., hamper the trade considerably. The cultivator and the village dealer are both responsible for these practices; and even the buyer for export cannot disclaim some share of the responsibility.

The fault lies in the system, as it does not provide an adequate stimulus to the grower; does not inflict tangible penalty on the dealer, and does not permit of concerted action on the part of buyers for export. It is not impossible to check these malpractices provided that primary marketing is properly organised to enable the larger buyers to get reasonably large quantities of properly cleaned and graded fibre and the primary producers to get a reasonably remunerative price.

Co-operative sale societies can help in bringing the cultivator into direct touch with the buyer and also can help him to sell his produce

of a Government controlled supervising agency. The *Sann hen p* trade is, however, so small that it would not be reasonable to expect the trade to organise itself for such action. Whether a Government controlled agency should be set up is a question which should be investigated.

92. *Cleaning and hackling for export.*—*Sann hen p* is exported either in an *undressed* or *dressed* condition. The former is known as the Bombay method and the latter as the Calcutta method.

The Bombay method is generally practised at Bombay, and consists of merely shaking the hanks without opening them, indifferent grading by ordinary labourers, and pressing, after throwing the hanks pell-mell into the press.

The Calcutta method is generally practised at Shivpur and Calcutta. According to it the *kutchra* bales and bundles are opened, dried and beaten with cudgels or blunt choppers; then they are shaken to remove the dust and sticks and are hackled, graded and pressed. At Cocanada the process is the same except that the fibre is not hackled.

Hackling consists in passing the hanks, which are already freed to some extent from dirt and stick by cleaning, through hand hackles (a row of long spikes fixed in a block of wood, which acts like a large comb). Hackling effectively frees the fibre from loadings and makes it loose but the operation necessarily costs a good deal (about Rs. 3 per maund at Shivpur). It cannot profitably be practised in the case of Benares hemp as it is weak, much tangled and would involve considerable loss in tow. Whether hemp from Bengal, Central Provinces, Pilibhit and Ratnagiri is in any particular case hackled or not depends on the nature of the demand. The extra price offered for hackled hemp has not been remunerative for the last three to four years and even at present it is difficult to sell hackled hemp at a price which can compensate for the extra work except occasionally in small quantities to Germany.

93. *Pressing, for export.*—For export, Benares hemp at present is pressed at Shivpur; Pilibhit hemp and hems from Central Provinces, Sambalpur district (Bihar and Orissa) and the Bombay Presidency are mostly pressed at the press houses at Bombay; Bengal hemp is mostly pressed at Calcutta, and Madras hemp largely at Cocanada.

It may be noted that the Central Provinces which are next in importance to the United Provinces in hemp production have no arrangements for *pucca* baling. Baling of the Central Provinces fibre in some central and convenient place in the Central Provinces, therefore, would save the unnecessary freights on the transport of *kutchra* bales to Calcutta and Bombay.

Seoni might prove to be a suitable centre for hydraulic presses; and cleaning, grading and packing for export may be done there to the general advantage of both cultivators and shippers. Such centralised *pucca* baling would be more amenable to supervision by the supervising agency—whether Government's own or set up by the trade.

ing money by packing the produce from an inferior grade and passing it on as a new grade under a name suggestive of a superior grade; but in the long run profits must depend on intrinsic quality and not on false grading; and the general interests of the trade demand a reliable uniform system. Such procedure would not be inconsistent with the interests of individual firms, as private trade marks would still remain, and continue to carry the market value attached to the firm's name.

95. *Supervision at the Press.*—The remarks in paragraph 91 regarding supervision over *batela* baling apply *mutatis mutandis* to *pacca* baling for export. In the Philippine Islands there is full fledged service for the inspection of fibre before export and a scheme on these lines adapted to local circumstances may be welcomed by the shippers, particularly because it would simplify arbitration in London, and would strengthen the shippers' hands in the case of disputes.

96. *System of sale and arbitration in London.*—Indian *sann hemp* is sold in London on the basis of "f. a. q. of the grade." In the absence of standard grading, the f. a. q. of the grade has little significance and tends to vary according to the arbitrator's notion as to what the average quality grade should be. All arbitrations on Indian hemp, sold to the United Kingdom, are held in London, and in the absence of standardised grading and specifications, the arbitrators have to depend on their knowledge and experience of the general average quality of Indian hemp; but men with first hand knowledge are few. Arbitration of this type is unscientific and unsatisfactory; shippers and the Bombay† chamber of commerce have protested against it in emphatic terms.

Complaints have frequently been made by the trade that the existing terms of the contract for hemp exported are unfair to the shipper; and that in actual operation they tend to favour the buyer. But so long as standardised system of grading and specifications is not evolved, it is difficult to see how matters can be set right.

97. *Necessity for studying foreign production centres and markets.*—An enquiry into the preparation of the Indian (*sann*) *hemp* and the conditions under which it is handled and marketed in India will not suffice by itself for evolving any effective scheme so that the Indian hemp trade could be enabled to hold its own against the increasing competition of Russian and Italian hems in the European markets. A thorough knowledge of the methods of cultivation, preparation, handling and marketing of Italian and Russian hemp as well as accurate information about the uses of the Indian hemp in the various European countries is also necessary. If and when funds permit, the deputation of an officer to study the production, etc., of hems which compete with Indian *Sann hemp* and foreign markets may be considered.

98. *Railway transport.*—Freight rates are fixed on the telescopic mileage basis which favours "long distance" transport, e.g., to Bombay

* Oakley, F. J.—Long Vegetable Fibres, pp. 114, 115.

† Proceedings of a meeting of exporters of Hemp held on 2nd July 1930.

or Calcutta, and discourages transport to up-country centres like Shivpur where many of the processes preparatory to final export could otherwise be carried out efficiently and economically. Even organised supervision over these processes at the stages where it can be effective can be set up. The question of giving special railway rates to such centres should be seriously considered.

The following freight figures will show how Shivpur presses are handicapped on account of telescopic rates :—

	Distance.	Charges.		
		per md.		
		Rs.	A.	P.
Chandausi to Bombay	1,074	1	2	3
Chandausi to Calcutta	805	0	12	6
Chandausi to Shivpur	379	0	8	2
Pilibhit to Calcutta <i>via</i> Lucknow	779	0	13	6
Pilibhit to Shivpur	353	0	13	2
Pilibhit to Bombay	1,408	0	13	6
Shivpur to Calcutta	432	0	7	10
		<i>(Pucca bales).</i>		
Shivpur to Calcutta	432	0	8	4
		<i>(Kutchha bales).</i>		
Partabgarh to Shivpur	82	0	4	0

Numerous complaints were also received that whereas one wagon of registered carrying capacity of X maunds would accommodate 160 bales of hemp, another wagon of the same registered weight carrying capacity would accommodate far fewer bales; and that the same freight was charged by the railway because the registered weight carrying capacity of both wagons was the same. In some cases it was stated that wagons of the shape which would carry the maximum number of bales were on the station but were not freely supplied and it was suggested that railways might issue instructions for the supply of wagons of the most suitable shape when available. It was also suggested that a specified fractional deduction from the maximum weight capacity on which the charges are based might be considered in the case of certain unsuitable types of wagons, but this seems difficult to reduce to practice.

99. *Necessity for a permanent organisation.*—*Sann hemp* is a minor crop and has consequently been neglected so far, as the hemp trade only came into prominence since the Great War. Under normal trade conditions it might be urged with some justification that the improvement of any commodity should be left to the trade itself, *i.e.*, by the buyer paying a premium for quality. But in the face of renewed competition from Russian hemp, the position of the Indian hemp trade has become precarious. As already stated, unless prompt action is taken, India may lose for ever its position, weak as it already is, in the European markets.

A central organisation was recommended by the Imperial Institute Advisory Committees on (a) plant and animal products ; and (b) vegetable fibres ; this was also recommended by the late Agricultural Adviser to the Government of India and by some of the principal exporters of *sann hemp*. It was thought then that jute, *sann hemp* and other fibre crops should be grouped together and that a central organisation should be entrusted with the work of improvement of vegetable fibres. Since then, however, the constitution of a Central Jute Committee has been announced. Although it might perhaps be beyond the scope of his enquiry, the Hemp Marketing Officer would like to record his view that the original proposal to have a central organisation to deal with vegetable fibres as a whole had many advantages which cannot be secured as effectively and economically by different bodies dealing with the various fibres individually and piecemeal. The formation of an independent permanent committee for *Sann hemp* may not be practicable for financial reasons as a cess on *sann* at a reasonable rate would not yield the funds necessary to meet the expenses of such an organisation. In view of the *fait accompli* of the Central Jute Committee, however, it is suggested that a sub-committee of the Central Jute Committee might be formed to stimulate research, improve the preparation of the hemp for market, deal with malpractices, and bring about other improvements in the trade in *sann hemp* and other minor fibre crops ; and also to stimulate the utilisation of these fibres by various small industries in the country itself.

100. *Provincial Statistics*.—The Season and Crop Reports group *sann hemp* with the other fibres for the purpose of recording acreages. Other fibre crops are also grown besides *sann hemp*, e.g., Deccan hemp or Bimlipatam jute (*Hibiscus cannabinus*) and Sisal hemp (*Agave* and *Aloe* species) and although they are of minor importance the areas under these should be shown separately.

Provincial Season and Crop Reports do not even show the acreage under *sann hemp* grown for fibre as the acreage recorded under hemp includes the area under *sann* used for green manuring, and in Madras for fodder also. The fact that such areas are not shown separately detracts from the value of the statistics for affording information when required on any one of these three points. A more accurate estimate of the acreage for fibre could be obtained if the area in which the hemp crop is ploughed in, or is used for fodder could be eliminated from the final statistics. It seems to the author that all these crops could be recorded separately at little or no extra cost, as even at present the village record keeper has to show, after his second round, the area in which any crop has failed ; and it would perhaps not be a very difficult matter for him to ascertain at this, or a subsequent round, the area in which hemp has been ploughed in or used for fodder.

These problems may be put to the provincial departments of Land Records and Agriculture. Bengal, and Bihar and Orissa are under permanent settlement and do not possess subordinate revenue staff

under Government control such as is available in other provinces; therefore in their cases there may be some difficulty. On the other hand these provinces also publish their Season and Crop Reports, and it may be possible to adapt their present system, so as to obtain fairly reliable information of the acreage under (i) *sann hemp* and (ii) *sann hemp* for fibre.

The principal local markets and Co-operative Central Banks where they exist should be supplied with current market rates in *sann hemp* at Bombay and Calcutta.

101. *Uses of sann hemp in India.* - *Sann hemp* is put to a variety of uses in India. It is made into *Tot* (matting for the floors) in Partabgarh, Azamgarh and Benares districts. Also it is used by the rope making industry all over India. In this case it is generally of only local importance, but in some places (e.g., Pandepur, Tanakpur, Daulatpur and Lalpur in Benares district and Chatra and Sheoraphulli in Serampur district) it is of more than merely local importance. In Berhampur, Vizagapatam, Godavari and Kistna districts, there are cottage industries for manufacture of canvas, and bags.

All these industries are capable of development. Lower grade *sann hemp* could be profitably utilized for manufacturing cheap ropes, matting and tarpanlins. Further utilization of the fibre by industries in India itself will be of great help to the *sann hemp* trade by providing an additional outlet for it.

CHAPTER IX.

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS.

1. *Sann hemp* should be grown on light well-drained soils (para. 79).

2. There is considerable scope for improvement in the existing strains. Improved strains with higher yield and better quality fibre can and should be evolved by 'selection' (paras. 8, 80).

3. The need for ensuring supplies of pure good seed with instructions about the seed rate for each tract has been clearly established (para. 79).

4. Cultivators in Bengal should be educated to cut off the root and top portions from the plants before retting; similarly cultivators in Ratnagiri district (Bombay Presidency) should be advised to cut the root portions of the plants before retting (paras. 45, 71 and 83).

5. The advantages of drying the harvested crops as practised in Ratnagiri district (Bombay Presidency) should be investigated. (Paras. 71 and 82).

6. Instructions should be given to cultivators regarding the proper time and method of harvesting, retting and extraction of fibre and efforts should be made to improve facilities for washing the fibre where these are deficient. (Paras. 11, 15, 29, 36, 45, 53, 71, 83 and 85).

7. The vertical and twisting actions of the retted bundles during washing as practised in the United Provinces (para. 15) and beating of the retted material during extraction as practised in some parts of Bengal (para. 45) are undesirable (para. 83).

8. The practicability of improving the quality of *sann hemp* fibre by 'sweating' should be investigated (para. 84).

9. The practice of leaving sticks and dirt in the fibre and of twisting it tightly into hanks which serve to hide "loading" should be discouraged (paras. 16, 86).

10. The experiments undertaken at the Technological Institute, Cawnpore, by Mr. Mullani on retting and softening the fibre with cheap chemicals are promising, and the authorities of the Institute might be encouraged to continue them (para. 83).

11. The possibilities of breaking and scutching green as well as retted stems, by hand and power machines, should be investigated (para. 85).

12. It is desirable to study the effects of the season of growth, and of harvesting and retting practices on the fibre with a view to improvements (para. 87).

13. The practicability of regulating up-country markets on the lines of cotton and grain markets in Berar (para. 88), and of introducing standard iron weights by legal prescription should be investigated (paras. 74 and 88).

14. Co-operative Sale Societies and philanthropic bodies should be encouraged to help in ameliorating the condition of the cultivators (para. 89).

15. The practicability of controlling the transport from one growing centre to another through trade organizations should be considered (para. 88).

16. The economy and benefit of cleaning and assorting the fibre at the up-country collecting centres before it is made into *kutchra* bales or bundles (para. 90) should be brought home to all concerned.

17. Supervision over *kutchra* baling at the up-country markets will help to minimise some of the defects and malpractices and is not only desirable but necessary (paras. 13, 19 and 91).

18. If suitable supervision over the cleaning, grading and packing of the fibre for export could also be provided, it would undoubtedly help to reduce the defects and malpractices. Shivpur (near Benares) being one of the important centres for baling, experiments should be tried there (paras. 92 and 93).

19. The Central Provinces which rank next in importance to the United Provinces in *sann hemp* production should have arrangement for *pucca* baling. Seoni might prove to be a suitable centre for hydraulic pressing (para. 93).

20. A reliable and uniform system of grading and specification of the grades is very desirable in the general interests of the trade and efforts

should be made to evolve a suitable system through the trade itself (para. 94).

21. Bales should bear the name of the grade, the place of production and the name of the press. The shipper's own trade marks may of course continue (para. 94).

22. Supervision over cleaning, grading and packing at the presses at the ports through some permanent organization is essential (para. 95).

23. Packing for export at the up-country baling centres like Shivpur should be encouraged by giving special transport facilities (para. 98).

24. Indian shippers complain that the terms of the form of the contract at present in use when hemp is exported are one-sided and are frequently unfair in their operation. An attempt should be made to bring about their revision (para. 96).

25. A study of the foreign centres of production and markets for hemp is desirable before any effective scheme for the improvement of the Indian hemp trade can be evolved (para. 97).

26. A permanent central organisation on the lines of the Indian Central Cotton Committee is necessary to effect improvements in the preparation and marketing of *sann hemp* and to put the Indian hemp trade on a sound footing (para. 99).

27. The industrial utilisation in India of *sann hemp*, e.g., the manufacture of ropes, matting, canvas, etc., offers a promising field which should not be left out of the scope of work entrusted to any central organisation which may be set up (para. 101).

T. S. SABNIS.

The 17th April 1931.

APPENDIX I.

ACREAGES UNDER HEMP ACCORDING TO THE SEASON AND; CROP REPORTS.

ACREAGES UNDER HEMP ACCORDING TO THE SEASON AND						Quinquennial averages or lesser averages as the case may be.		
Name of Province.	1909-10.		1910-11.		1911-12.	1912-13.	1913-14.	Acres.
Bengal	44,700		44,900		39,300	35,900	36,300	36,200
Bihar and Orissa	(Not available)		(Not available)		21,000	23,200	20,800	21,967
Bombay	155,599		143,895	(Not available)	(Not available)	114,728	134,234	137,114
Central Provinces and Berar	168,206		112,691		121,387	140,133	159,664	140,416
Madras	223,590		238,934		279,737	(Not available)	308,184	262,011
Punjab	52,057		46,248		22,551	52,013	53,480	45,269
United Provinces of Agra and Oudh	155,435		(Not available)		112,382	162,531	222,178	163,131

ACREAGES UNDER HEMP ACCORDING TO THE SEASON AND CROP REPORTS.

Name of Province.	1914-15.	1915-16.	1916-17.	1917-18.	1918-19.	Quinquennial averages or lesser averages as the case may be.
Bengal	42,400	40,900	43,100	42,700	44,500	Acres. 42,720
Bihar and Orissa	20,800	31,100	30,000	32,500	34,400	29,760
Bombay	155,163	144,482	(Not available)	117,958	81,664	99,817
Central Provinces and Berar	176,014	138,035	163,950	131,745	90,977	140,144
Madras	(Not available)	269,068	200,665	296,051	184,215	237,450
Punjab	48,931	27,315	49,116	45,080	19,480	40,657
United Provinces of Agra and Oudh	170,352	124,761	176,903	211,974	124,248	161,618

ACREAGES UNDER HEMP ACCORDING TO THE SEASON AND CROP REPORTS.

Name of Province.	1919-20.	1920-21.	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.	Quinquennial averages or lesser averages as the case may be.
						Acres.
Bengal	48,800	78,700	79,400	77,800	76,900	72,320
Bihar and Orissa	30,400	38,600	40,800	33,300	29,500	34,520
Bombay	111,357	81,329	104,016	107,446	120,365	104,903
Central Provinces and Berar	146,616	(Not available)	99,906	(Not available)	102,434	116,319
Madras	159,476	87,747	98,489	104,673	110,461	112,169
Punjab	46,863	43,727	45,249	46,716	41,969	44,905
United Provinces of Agra and Oudh	182,788	175,814	(Not available)	(Not available)	(Not available)	179,301

ACREAGES UNDER HEMP ACCORDING TO THE SEASON AND CROP REPORTS.

Name of Province.	1924-25.	1925-26.	1926-27.	1927-28.	1928-29.	Quinquennial averages or lesser averages as the case may be.
						Acres.
Bengal	62,900	62,700	60,700	58,400	58,200	60,580
Bihar and Orissa	18,700	18,600	21,700	19,600	15,300	18,780
Bombay	162,445	105,252	99,798	109,795	102,629	115,984
Central Provinces and Berar	138,773	158,719	113,299	92,792	84,947	117,706
Madras	141,806	177,570	112,941	96,111	103,067	126,299
Punjab	41,291	48,751	47,510	41,274	36,451	43,055
United Provinces of Agra and Oudh	176,700	244,581	240,661	190,494	156,690	203,025

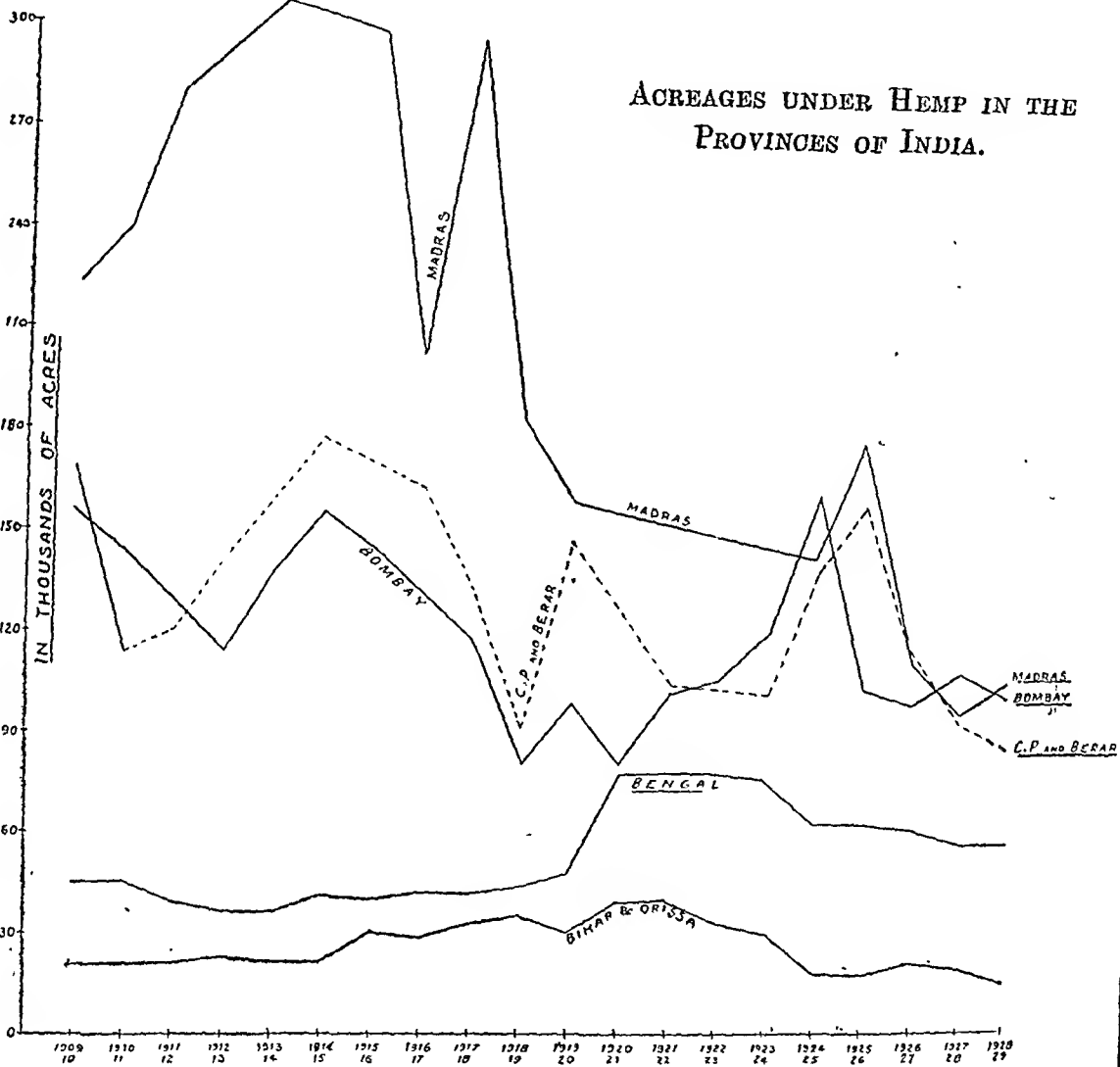
THE TOTAL CROPPED AREA (IRRIGATED AND UNIRRIGATED) IN ACRES, IN THE FOLLOWING PROVINCES, WITH THE AVERAGES FOR THE YEARS SHOWN AND ALSO THE QUINQUENNIAL AVERAGE AREA UNDER HEMP CULTIVATION, WITH ITS PERCENTAGE TO THE AVERAGE TOTAL CROPPED AREA.

APPENDIX II.

(Figures taken from the Provincial Season and Crop Reports.)

	Total Cropped area 1921-23.	Total Cropped area 1923-25.	Total Cropped area 1926-27.	Total Cropped area 1927-28.	Total Cropped area 1928-29.	Quinquennial average.	Quinquennial average area under hemp cultivation.	Percentage of area under hemp to total cropped area.
	27,747,500	28,503,800	27,469,200	29,000,000	28,702,700	27,655,700	60,520	22
	30,460,500	30,214,800	29,749,000	29,883,000	30,057,100	30,012,200	18,720	63
	33,004,700	31,985,312	31,828,918	32,272,040	32,112,000	32,072,215	115,234	35
	37,000,100	36,700,100	37,084,001	37,878,205	37,878,244	37,854,429	117,700	41
	41,604,000	40,700,000	40,400,011	38,558,078	38,773,244	38,532,292	2,620	22
	46,000,000	44,000,111	44,000,000	40,422,501	38,773,244	38,532,292	2,620	22
	50,000,000	48,000,000	48,000,000	48,000,000	48,000,000	48,000,000	2,620	22
	54,000,000	52,000,000	52,000,000	52,000,000	52,000,000	52,000,000	2,620	22
	58,000,000	56,000,000	56,000,000	56,000,000	56,000,000	56,000,000	2,620	22
	62,000,000	60,000,000	60,000,000	60,000,000	60,000,000	60,000,000	2,620	22
	66,000,000	64,000,000	64,000,000	64,000,000	64,000,000	64,000,000	2,620	22
	70,000,000	68,000,000	68,000,000	68,000,000	68,000,000	68,000,000	2,620	22
	74,000,000	72,000,000	72,000,000	72,000,000	72,000,000	72,000,000	2,620	22
	78,000,000	76,000,000	76,000,000	76,000,000	76,000,000	76,000,000	2,620	22
	82,000,000	80,000,000	80,000,000	80,000,000	80,000,000	80,000,000	2,620	22
	86,000,000	84,000,000	84,000,000	84,000,000	84,000,000	84,000,000	2,620	22
	90,000,000	88,000,000	88,000,000	88,000,000	88,000,000	88,000,000	2,620	22
	94,000,000	92,000,000	92,000,000	92,000,000	92,000,000	92,000,000	2,620	22
	98,000,000	96,000,000	96,000,000	96,000,000	96,000,000	96,000,000	2,620	22
	102,000,000	100,000,000	100,000,000	100,000,000	100,000,000	100,000,000	2,620	22

APPENDIX 3.

ACREAGES UNDER HEMP IN THE
PROVINCES OF INDIA.

APPENDIX IV.

EXPORTS OF "Hemp" (CHIEFLY SAGE HEMP), ACCORDING TO THE REVIEW OF TRADE OF INDIA.

State.	1910-11.	1911-12.	1912-13.	1913-14.	1914-15.	1915-16.
Punjab.	31,175 1,011	24,577 1,041	26,160 347	42,169 57,609	351,125 311,753	327,628 352,916
Bihar.	1,000 1,000	1,000 1,000	1,000 1,000	1,000 1,000	1,000 1,000	1,000 1,000
Madras.	1,000 1,000	1,000 1,000	1,000 1,000	1,000 1,000	1,000 1,000	1,000 1,000
Formosa, Cebu.	1,000 1,000	1,000 1,000	1,000 1,000	1,000 1,000	1,000 1,000	1,000 1,000
Sum.	33,175 2,011	26,577 2,041	28,160 347	44,169 58,609	353,125 312,753	329,628 353,916
Formosa, Cebu.	1,000 1,000	1,000 1,000	1,000 1,000	1,000 1,000	1,000 1,000	1,000 1,000
Sum.	34,175 3,011	27,577 3,041	29,160 347	45,169 59,609	354,125 313,753	330,628 354,916

* Shipments for Formosa, Cebu, &c.

EXPORTS OF "HEMP" (CHIEFLY SANN HEMP), ACCORDING TO THE REVIEW OF TRADE OF INDIA.

54

	1916-17.	1917-18.	1918-19.	1919-20.	1920-21.	1921-22.	1922-23.
Share of—*							
Bengal Cwts. £	341,197 464,740	126,735 166,709	268,597 378,786	507,929 Rs. 1,09,10,620	298,739 54,63,900	197,412 26,93,313	269,487 36,67,678
Bombay Cwts. £	344,956 545,836	151,797 320,697	174,812 530,228	216,134 Rs. 75,97,090	96,123 28,18,160	49,825 10,51,488	113,598 19,35,014
Sind Cwts. £	.. ..	45 82	.. ..	.. ..	20 1,040	....	....
Madras Cwts. £	46,060 63,548	28,139 42,114	46,011 69,628	18,046 Rs. 4,33,260	13,069 3,32,390	8,966 1,90,959	29,358 4,82,032
TOTAL . Cwts. £	732,213 1,074,124	306,716 529,602	489,420 978,642	742,109 Rs. 1,89,40,970	407,951 86,15,490	256,203 39,35,760	412,443 60,84,724

* From 1919-20, the value is given in Rupees and previously in £.

EXPORTS OF "HEMP" (CHIEFLY SANN HEMP), ACCORDING TO THE REVIEW OF TRADE OF INDIA.

	1923-24.	1924-25.	1925-26.	1926-27.	1927-28.	1928-29.	1929-30.	
Share of—								
Bengal	Cwts. Rs.	342,228 54,74,539	454,363 1,10,03,941	419,995 1,04,87,730	319,013 59,36,339	341,801 53,67,927	453,913 68,06,610	315,689 47,10,985
Bombay	Cwts. Rs.	102,085 18,92,151	184,426 54,93,014	180,010 48,16,465	96,384 18,58,056	112,314 22,60,760	87,726 10,38,341	103,572 18,58,387
Madras	Cwts. Rs.	16,534 2,75,933	20,951 7,90,165	23,444 6,13,115	24,405 4,82,100	20,631 5,15,486	19,454 3,06,774	15,624 2,63,511
TOTAL	Cwts. Rs.	458,847 76,42,682	658,749 1,72,87,121	623,999 1,59,17,310	439,832 82,76,195	484,146 50,83,113	561,697 87,51,579	434,959 68,33,683

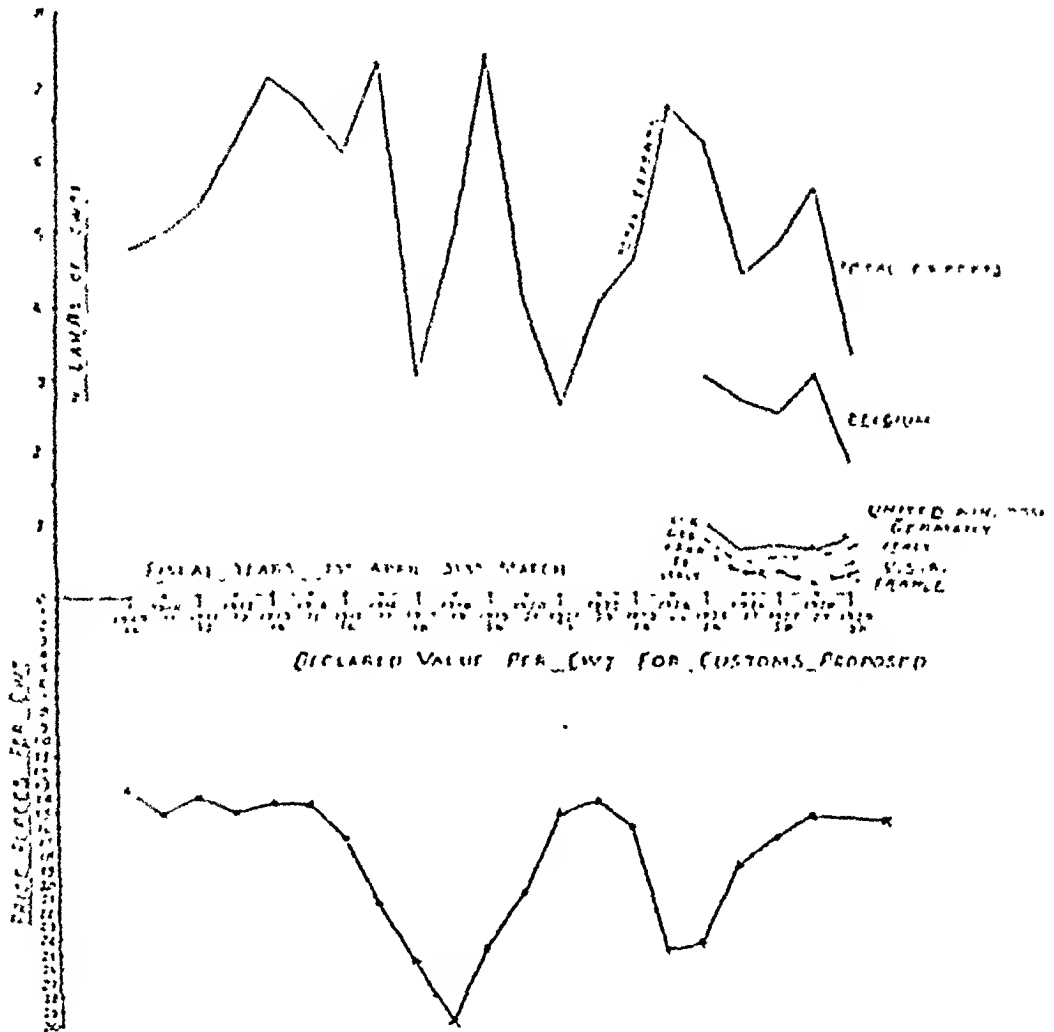
STATEMENT OF THE AVERAGE EXPORTS FOR SUCCESSIVE PERIODS.

Years.	Bengal.	Bombay.	Madras.	Total.
1910-14	Cmts. £ 2,02,073 2,53,433	2,22,073 2,19,410	45,133 42,331	5,69,280 5,21,771
1914-19	Cmts. £ 2,33,324 2,12,763	2,35,064 2,95,744	42,335 55,074	5,61,269 7,55,763
1919-24	Cmts. Rs. 3,23,159 56,42,022	1,15,552 29,53,731	16,795 3,42,915	4,61,511 90,43,925
1924-29	Cmts. Rs. 3,97,323 79,20,335	1,32,172 32,91,296	25,553 5,41,509	5,55,553 1,16,53,124
1929-39	Cmts. Rs. 3,15,039 47,10,335	1,63,572 19,58,337	15,693 2,53,311	4,94,959 68,52,983

APPENDIX 3.

EXPORTS OF HEMP FROM INDIA.

QUANTITY.



APPENDIX VI.

QUANTITY AND VALUE OF EXPORTS OF HEMP (RAW) BY MONTHS. ACCORDING TO THE SEA-BORNE TRADE AND NAVIGATION OF BRITISH INDIA, FOR THE YEARS 1927-28, 1928-29 AND 1929-30.

Q = Quantity in tons.
V = Value in Rupees.

	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.	January.	February.	March.
Total—												
1927-28 . . . Q	66,740	41,233	34,844	24,067	24,400	40,601	15,337	23,701	40,000	51,038	46,153	62,730
. . . V	10,63,145	9,01,333	6,24,743	4,21,565	3,05,854	6,15,598	2,59,002	3,57,084	7,70,324	8,35,557	7,80,901	10,01,697
1928-29 . . . Q	45,086	48,030	54,060	32,075	24,891	14,855	14,028	37,919	63,102	34,066	71,258	63,039
. . . V	7,59,491	8,00,037	9,21,831	5,13,060	3,90,872	2,47,554	2,16,075	3,73,601	10,11,010	11,03,884	11,72,254	9,71,980
1929-30 . . . Q	56,740	26,509	20,298	24,950	25,578	21,021	12,895	32,200	50,390	40,585	54,230	63,491
. . . V	10,25,205	4,12,381	3,27,301	3,93,233	4,09,175	3,04,035	2,02,522	3,28,603	8,00,900	0,81,047	8,02,177	9,45,312
To United Kingdom—												
1927-28 . . . Q	10,296	9,090	7,455	5,034	4,130	5,201	5,010	3,500	3,017	4,903	7,303	11,423
. . . V	1,53,053	3,54,411	1,36,595	69,435	63,954	98,014	84,865	65,150	53,580	78,155	1,32,305	1,77,146
1928-29 . . . Q	9,187	6,144	3,848	4,426	0,570	1,864	622	877	3,083	8,829	8,755	7,041
. . . V	1,00,442	1,06,810	64,547	70,200	97,038	28,250	10,038	15,843	59,580	1,14,506	1,24,235	1,10,637
1929-30 . . . Q	8,601	8,202	4,214	1,767	1,700	2,590	609	5,069	8,445	8,305	8,424	14,087
. . . V	1,63,780	1,40,072	70,550	29,150	33,043	41,430	13,470	90,100	1,20,992	1,19,732	1,23,545	2,22,730
To Germany—												
1927-28 . . . Q	4,307	3,723	3,090	5,867	4,800	3,193	2,212	1,470	4,500	5,873	3,352	7,180
. . . V	85,137	72,490	65,845	94,040	74,805	50,950	33,350	20,680	73,210	93,338	55,170	1,12,796
1928-29 . . . Q	9,062	4,141	7,804	1,809	1,409	2,403	1,140	6,171	6,051	3,805	4,182	5,735
. . . V	1,55,492	73,097	1,40,472	30,410	26,621	47,077	18,325	1,15,085	80,245	57,525	60,225	90,880
1929-30 . . . Q	2,489	2,795	2,383	6,630	7,127	1,087	653	8,233	11,293	4,503	9,885	4,119
. . . V	43,732	38,610	35,210	97,353	1,13,385	20,645	13,074	1,37,095	1,54,720	80,511	1,41,400	61,345

*QUANTITY (FIGURES IN CWTs. IN THOUSANDS) OF HEMP (RAW)
EXPORTED FROM INDIA.

	Pre-war average.	War average.	Post War average.	—	—	—
	509	561	455	..	..	..
		1925-26.	1926-27.	1927-28.	1928-29.	1929-30.
TOTAL EXPORTS (CWTs. IN THOUSANDS).	..	624	440	484	561	435
<i>Exports by countries.</i>						
To United Kingdom	104	70	77	62	73
To Germany	75	34	50	55	62
To Belgium	302	266	248	297	181
To France	43	18	18	25	20
To Italy	24	6	28	65	29
To United States of America .	..	55	17	30	16	23
To Other countries	21	29	33	42	47
<i>Exports from Provinces (ports in three provinces).</i>						
Share of—						
Bengal	420	319	342	454	316
Bombay	180	96	112	88	104
Sind
Madras	24	24	30	20	16
Burma

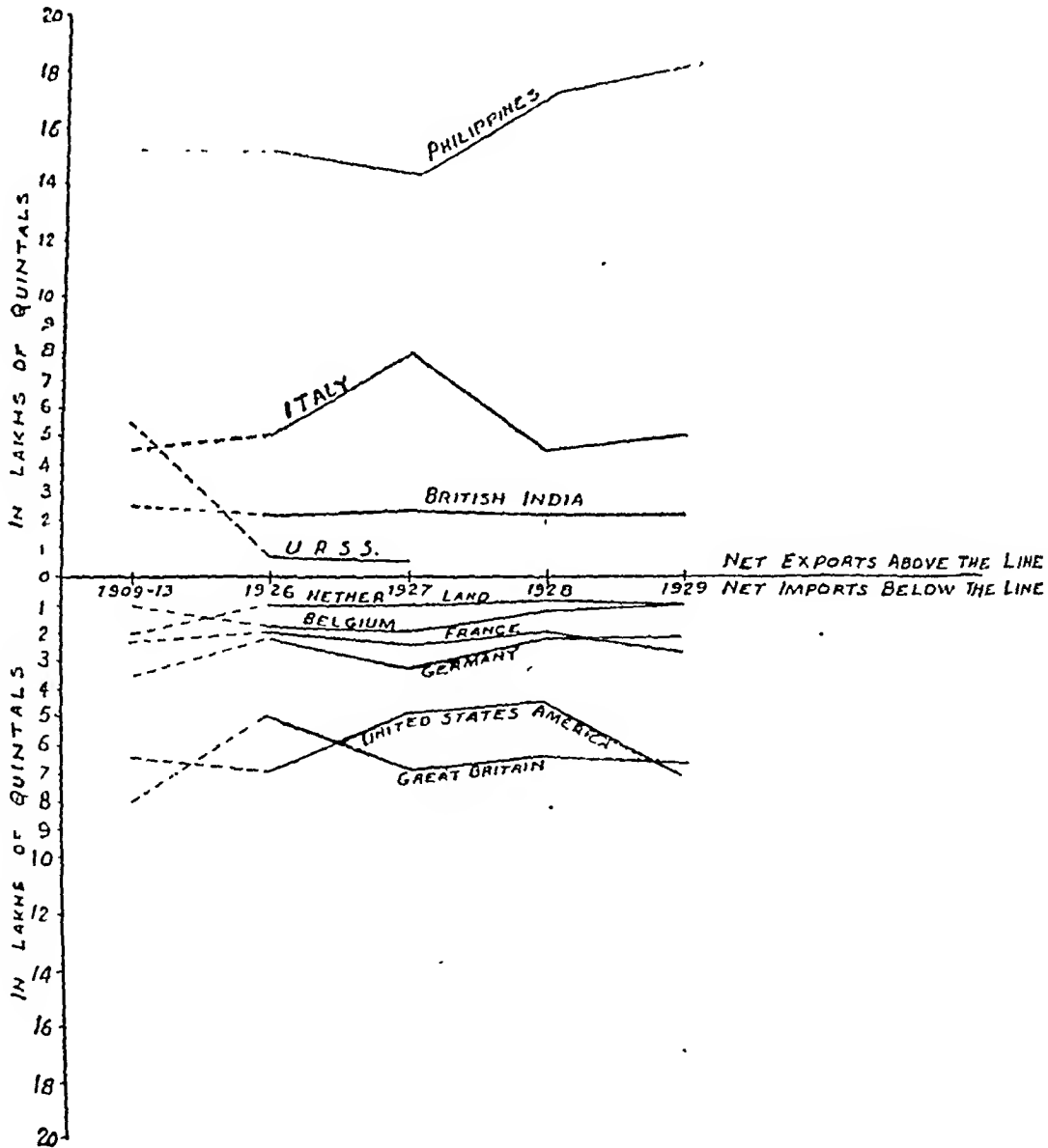
* According to the annual statement of the

DIX VII.

*VALUE (FIGURES IN RUPEES IN THOUSANDS) OF HEMP (RAW)
EXPORTED FROM INDIA.

Pre-war average.	War average.	Post War average.	1927-28.	1928-29.	1929-30.	—
7,827	11,787	9,014	..	..	..
	1925-26.	1926-27.	1927-28.	1928-29.	1929-30.	
..	15,917	8,276	8,083	8,752	6,833	TOTAL EXPORTS (RUPEES IN THOUSANDS).
						<i>Exports by countries.</i>
..	2,765	1,440	1,520	970	1,104	To United Kingdom.
..	2,098	698	838	924	947	To Germany.
..	7,224	4,779	3,979	4,593	2,765	To Belgium.
..	1,249	410	303	378	323	To France.
..	625	120	414	962	415	To Italy.
..	1,349	351	465	219	428	To United States of America.
..	607	559	563	706	760	To Other countries.
						<i>Exports from Provinces (ports in three provinces).</i>
						Share of—
..	10,487	5,936	5,367	6,807	4,711	Bengal.
..	4,816	1,858	2,201	1,638	1,558	Bombay.
..	..	..	..	..	..	Sind.
..	613	482	515	267	254	Madras.
..	..	..	..	..	..	Burma.

APPENDIX 8.

NET EXPORTS OR IMPORTS OF HEMP IN PRINCIPAL COUNTRIES
OF THE WORLD.

APPENDIX IX.

TRADE DESCRIPTIONS AND GRADES EXPORTED.

The following are the principal trade descriptions of the fibre exported to over-seas markets :—

I.

1. *Benares*.—White quality from the United Provinces and Bihar and Orissa. 3-4½ feet long, white or whitish brown in colour, well cleaned, weak, tangled, fine in fibre and with varying amount of stick.

2. *Bengal*.—White quality from the Pabna district in Bengal. 3-4½ feet long, very white in colour, well cleaned, of moderate length, fine in fibre, with a very small amount of stick.

3. *Pilibhit*.—Green hemp from the United Provinces and inferior hemp in this quality from the Central Provinces. 3-5 feet long, dull green to dirty green in colour, badly cleaned, matted, impregnated with dust and dirt, of moderate strength.

4. *Itarsi*.—Green hemp from Betul in Central Provinces. 4-6 feet long, green to brownish green, well cleaned, fine in fibre, strong and without dust.

5. *Sewnee*.—Green hemp from the Central Provinces, 4-6 feet long, light green to pale brown, well cleaned, of moderate length, moderately fine in fibre and with very small amount of dust.

6. *Jubbulpore*.—Green hemp from the Central Provinces. Indifferently cleaned, 4-6 feet long, greenish to greenish brown, of moderate strength, with small amount of stick and dust.

7. *Dewghuddy*.—From Dewgad and Rajapur talukas in the Ratnagiri district. Very well cleaned, 5-7 feet long, golden in colour, strong and fine in fibre and without dust.

8. *Salsi*.—Green quality from Belgaum. 4-5 feet long, badly cleaned, a little matted, dirty green in colour, of moderate strength, coarse, with varying amount of dirt and dust.

9. *Godhra*.—Green hemp from Panchmahals. A little superior to Salsi, with a large amount of sand.

10. *Khandesh*.—Green hemp from Khandesh. Superior to Godhra, with an admixture of sand and stick.

11. *Gopalpur*.—Green hemp from Ganjam district. 5-6 feet long, pale green, well cleaned, of moderate strength, fine in fibre, with very small amount of stick.

12. *Upper Godavari*.—Green hemp from Dronachidam and Sriranga. 4-5 feet long, green to greenish brown, fairly cleaned, of moderate strength, moderately fine in fibre and with a small amount of stick.

13. *Cocanada*.—Green hemp from East Godavari. 4-5 feet long, badly cleaned, of moderate strength, dirty green to greenish brown in colour, a little matted, impregnated with dirt and dust, with a large amount of stick.

14. *Warangal*.—Green hemp from Miran's territory. Both ends much matted and black resembling Cocanada being in other respects.

II.

GRADES EXPORTED.

Godhra.

Benares hemp	.	.	.	.	No. 1, 2 and 3.
Green hemp	.	.	.	.	" 1, 2, 3 and 4.
Bengal hemp	.	.	.	.	" 1, 2, 3 and 4

Bombay.

Pilibhit	.	.	.	.	Fine and No. 1 and 2.
Itarsi	.	.	.	.	Fine.
Sewnee	.	.	.	.	Fine and No. 1
Jubbulpore	.	.	.	.	Fine and No. 1
Dewghuddy	.	.	.	.	Best or double bar

Central Provinces.

	Per maund.		
	Rs.	A.	P.
<i>Chappara</i> (Seoni district)—			
Weighing	0	0	6
Pressing	0	2	0
Cartage Seoni station	0	2	0
Arhat	0	1	9
Establishment charges	0	3	9
TOTAL	0	10	0

	Per maund.		
	Rs.	A.	P.
<i>Jubbulpore</i> —			
Weighing, rope and press charges	0	2	6
Cartage and loading into carts	0	1	6
Loading into wagons and station charges	0	0	9
Arhat and Dalali	0	1	9
TOTAL	0	6	6

	Per maund.		
	Rs.	A.	P.
<i>Chhindwara</i> —			
Dharmada and Arhat	0	1	9
Pressing charges	0	1	11
Carriage from godown to station	0	0	3½
Weighing charges	0	0	1½
Loading in wagons	0	0	3
Establishment charges	0	0	11
TOTAL	0	5	3

	Per maund.		
	Rs.	A.	P.
<i>Betul</i> —			
Arhat	0	0	6
Dharmada and Gowshala	0	1	6
Weighing and Hamali	0	0	3
Pressing	0	2	0
Loading in cart and Kautcharis	0	1	6
	0	0	8
TOTAL	0	6	2

Exchange	Rs. 16 per cent.
Fire Insurance	1/2 "
Interest	1/2 "
Marine Insurance	1/2 "
Calcutta Brokerage	1/2 "
Short weight	1 "
Charges per maund	Rs. 1 4 10
Difference on every Rs. 2 per maund	Rs. 0 0 11

Madras Presidency.

Per maund.

Cocanada—

	Rs.	A.	P.
Carriage from production place to the port	0	2	6
Cleaning	0	2	10
Pull pressing and tying with iron hoops	0	4	5
Public charities	0	0	7
Labour (loading and unloading in boat, and boat charge to the steamer)	0	2	6
TOTAL	0	12	10

*Bombay Presidency.*Per kandy.
Rs. A. P.*Dergai (Ratnagiri district)—*

Dalali	1	0	0
Total	0	1	6
Tying	0	8	0
Hamali to bundar	0	3	0
Padavi	0	2	0
Custom charges	0	1	0
Phatomari charge to Bombay	2	8	0
Bombay charges (labour, cartage and warehouse)	2	8	0
TOTAL	6	15	6

per kandy
or about
15 annas
per
maund.Per kandy.
Rs. A. P.*Kharepatan (Ratnagiri district)—*

Weighing	0	0	3
Tying	0	8	0
Hamali	0	4	0
Padavi	0	8	0
Phatomari charge to Vijaydurg	0	1	3
Custom charges	0	1	0
Phatomari charge to Bombay	2	8	0
Dalali	1	0	0
Bombay charges (labour, cartage and warehouse)	2	8	0
Dalali nt Bombay	1	0	0

TOTAL **8 6 6** per kandy
or Rs.
1-2-0 per
maund.

Percentage charges—

Exchange	1 per cent.
Fire Insurance	1 1/2 "
Calcutta Brokerage	1 1/2 "
Interest	1 1/2 "
Marine Insurance	1 1/2 "
Charges per maund	Rs. 1 14 5
Difference on every Rs. 2 per maund	„ 0 0 8

Per bale of
400 lbs.
Rs. A. P.

*Shirpur (Benares district)—**Expenses at Shirpur—*

Cleaning and assorting	1 0 0
Pressing	3 0 0
Cartage to station	0 1 0
Station charges	0 1 0

TOTAL . 4 9 0 or As. 14-7
—per maund.

Expenses at Calcutta—

Port charges	0 4 0
Shipping charges	0 3 0

TOTAL . 0 7 0 per bale or
—As. 1-5 per
maund.

Total Rs. 5 per bale or Re. 1 per maund.

Calcutta—

Howrah to press	0 8 0
Cleaning and assorting	0 12 0
Pressing charge	3 0 0
Carting from the pressing house to Kidderpore Docks	0 5 6
Port charges	0 4 0

TOTAL . 4 13 6 per bale or
—As. 15-6
per maund.

APPENDIX XI.

WEIGHTS USED (FOR SANN HEMP) IN SOME OF THE SANN HEMP AREA.

Azamgarh—

Seer 105 tolas.

Belgaum District—

Maund 28 lbs. for sann.
38 lbs. for gur.
25 lbs. for sugar, oil.

Seer 80 tolas.

Bhagalpur District—

Seer 101 tolas.

Bihar Sharif (Bhagalpur district)—

Seer 84 tolas.

Jokhnawal	.	.	.	Welghing.
Jethwa	.	.	.	Crop grown in May.
Maati	.	.	.	Clearance charges at the market.
Kantelara	.	.	.	Welghing.
Kashmita	.	.	.	Vernacular name for saun hemp in Bhagalpur district.
Katikia	.	.	.	Crop grown in July.
Kaval	.	.	.	Leafy branches and cow dung cakes.
Lechas	.	.	.	Plait or hank.
Loda	.	.	.	Loading charges.
Leckering	.	.	.	Levelling the furrow tops after ploughing with a ladder-like frame of bamboos.
Solabhanja	.	.	.	Stick in the fibre.
Lundi	.	.	.	Plait or hank.
Muda	.	.	.	Ditto.
Nangarni	.	.	.	Ploughing.
Nikali	.	.	.	Clearance charges at the market.
Padav	.	.	.	Country boat.
Padavi	.	.	.	Country boat charge.
Palhedari	.	.	.	Carrying charges.
Pata	.	.	.	A plank—six to eight feet long, nine to twelve inches broad and about six inches deep—used to level the furrow tops after ploughing.
Pendi	.	.	.	Plait or hank.
Perni	.	.	.	Sowing.
Pharia	.	.	.	Village dealer who goes from house to house and collects the produce.
Phatemari	.	.	.	Country boat with a sail.
Pila	.	.	.	Plait or hank.
Ras	.	.	.	Saun hemp of average quality.
Rasband	.	.	.	Saun hemp containing various proportions of Dewghuddy grades.
Sukhavani	.	.	.	Drying.
Thakardwara	.	.	.	Temple charities.
Upatni	.	.	.	Harvesting by pulling.
Utarai	.	.	.	Unloading charges.

APPENDIX 13.

EXPLANATION OF PLATES.

PLATE I.

1. Material being immersed in pools at Raja-ka-sahaspur.
2. Retting at Pilibhit.

PLATE II.

3. Extraction of fibre at Raja-ka-sahaspur.
4. Kutcha baling wooden hand press at Chandausi.

PLATE III.

5. Kutcha baling hand metal press at Pilibhit.
6. West Patent power press for kutcha and pucca bales at Chandausi.
7. Kutcha baling wooden hand press at Chandausi.

PLATE IV.

8. Fibre being brought to the Vishwanathganj market.
9. Fibre being spread out for cleaning before kutchha baling at the Seograh market.
10. Fibre being cleaned at the Vishwanathganj market.

PLATE V.

11. Fibre being pressed into kutchha bales at the Seograh market.
12. Kutchha bales at the Vishwanathganj market.
13. Wooden hand press at the Vishwanathganj market.
14. Wooden hand press at the Vishwanathganj market.

PLATE VI.

15. Hackling of green hemp at the Parvati Press, Shivpur.
16. Hackling of green hemp at the Parvati Press, Shivpur.
17. Pressing Benares hemp into pucca bales at the Krishna Press, Shivpur.

PLATE VII.

18. Sann hemp crop at Chappara.
19. Harvested crop being dried at Saliwara—Jubbulpore district.
20. Dried straw being made into bundles at Saliwara—Jubbulpore district.

PLATE VIII.

21. Retting at Chappara—Stones indicating retting material.
22. Retting—stones indicating retting material—~~at Saliwara—Jubbulpore district.~~
23. Retted bundles being removed from water ~~(at Saliwara—Jubbulpore district.)~~
Mr. F. J. Plymen, Director of Agriculture, ~~Central Provinces and Berar.~~

PLATE IX.

24. Retted material—water being ~~used at the Chappara Press.~~
Mr. F. J. Plymen, Director of ~~Agriculture, Central Provinces and Berar.~~
25. Extraction of fibre at ~~Sarkanda Press, Shivpur.~~
26. Extraction of fibre at ~~Chappara Press, Shivpur.~~

PLATE XV.

37. Bundles of straw being arranged in a rafter for retting at Rajapur.
38. The rafter being partially immersed at Rajapur.
39. The rafter being completely immersed--stones indicating the retting material.
40. Retting at Hattargi--Belgaum district.

PLATE XVI.

41. Botted material being dried at Bhatundi--Devgad.
42. Extraction of fibre at Hukeri--Belgaum district.
43. Frame for tying fibre into bundles at Rajapur.
44. Padav carrying sunn hemp from Kharepatan to Vijayadurg.

APPENDIX XIV.

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